



# **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**

**FILE NUMBER: 100-4712**

**PART: 10 OF 19**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT America First Committee

FILE NO. 100-4712

SECTION NO. 10

SERIALS 458

through

500

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

File No. 100-1259

Report made at  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Date when made

Period

Report made by

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

6/23-27; 7/1, 2, 6, 10, 17-18, 20, 22, 24

Character

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

DATE 022907 SP885/6L  
318519

## SYNOPSIS:

Unnamed local organization consisting of seven known members, of whom six are former members of America First Committee, has been meeting irregularly at 402 Investment Building and 7 East Montgomery Street, Pittsburgh, office and residence of JOSEPH E. HARRIS, local labor relations consultant and ostensibly head of the organization.

states organization formed prior to [redacted] for the purpose of influencing Congressional legislation. Material developed by the organization is anti-Semitic, anti-British, anti-Communist, and anti-Administration. Organization has no officers and no dues. Some members believed to be distributing seditious propaganda.

Description and background information on various members set out.

AGENCY *Phy Phy & Co*  
REQ. REC'D *1-26-56*  
REP'T FORW. *2-15-56*  
BY *J. J. Gm*

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1942. 100-4712-403

In reviewing this report it should be noted that a member of the organization was [redacted]

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- 2 - Cleveland
- 2 - Omaha
- 2 - Milwaukee
- 2 - Huntington
- 2 - Chicago
- 2 - Washington
- 1 - Newark (Inf.)
- 1 - Portland (Inf.)
- 3 - Pittsburgh

SEP 10 1942

RECORDED & INDEXED

RECORDED COPY 100-152962-1

the subject of an Internal Security case, Pittsburgh file 100-3211, which file has been closed as all further investigation with regard to his activities will be reported in instant file. It is believed however that a brief resume of the information reported in the above-mentioned case should be included herein.

When interviewed at the Pittsburgh Field Office [REDACTED] gave the following information, with regard to instant organization.

#### Formation

According to [REDACTED] this organization was formed by JOSEPH E. HARRIS, 7 East Montgomery Street, Pittsburgh, but he was unable to give the date of the formation of the group as he explained that he had joined [REDACTED] at the invitation of HARRIS and that he did not know how long the organization had been formed prior to this date.

#### Purpose

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b7D [REDACTED] advised that the purpose of this organization is to develop to such a point and to lay the foundation for an organization through which they, the members, might influence or bring about Congressional legislation concerning States' rights, personal rights, and post-war conditions. [REDACTED] explained the purpose of the organization further by stating that during a period of war it is necessary for the Government to take from the citizens of the country many personal rights and liberties and that one of the primary purposes of this organization is to see that those personal rights and liberties are returned to the citizens of the United States after the war is over.

#### Meetings, Dues, etc.

According to [REDACTED] this organization generally meets either in the office of HARRIS, 402 Investment Building, or at the residence of HARRIS, 7 East Montgomery Street; that the meetings are held spasmodically but on an average of four or five times a month; that there are no officers in the group, and that no dues are paid by any of the members.

#### Material Developed by the Organization

At the time of the above-mentioned interview [REDACTED] presented to the writer 32 typewritten sheets, one printed sheet, 9 sheets of handwritten material, some of which has been incorporated into the typewritten sheets, and numerous newspaper clippings apparently from local papers. [REDACTED] stated that this material which he presented is only a part of the material which has been developed by this group and that he thinks that the complete material and records of the group are kept by HARRIS in his office.

The above-mentioned typewritten, printed, and handwritten material has been photographed by the Technical Laboratory and one copy being retained in instant file and one copy in Pittsburgh file 100-3211.



The above-mentioned printed page is entitled "Roosevelt's Red Democracy, New Deal Government Of, By, and For the Jews" and this caption is encircled by the names of various government employees each with the word "Jew" before his name.

One page of the typewritten material bears the following caption: "List of topics to be developed" and below it are listed, among other items, free speech and assembly, unity, free enterprise, usurpation of States' rights, property rights and human rights, national defense and sabotage, propaganda, post-war conditions, and others. Much of the material contains quotations from prominent government figures among whom are listed Attorney General BIDDLE, Senator BURTON WHEELER, WOODROW WILSON, Justice OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, and others. Parts of the material are quoted and give as their source various government publications. Other parts of the material are apparently anti-Communist as one page contains in part the following:

Communism Stands For

Individual Slavery  
Enslavement of Man by State  
State Interests Always First  
Government by Liquidation

Americanism Stands For

Individual Labor  
Man the Master of the State  
Rights of Man First  
Government by the People

The following quotations are excerpts from the above-mentioned material:

"American flesh and blood must not become helpless cannon fodder because of lack of proper equipment. . . We must not commit stupid heartless waste of American blood and substance by incompetent leadership at home or in the field. . . The administration. . . then proceeding to intensify its own political activities puts in office its own Party hacks, and increases its control over the country. This is exactly comparable to the activities of the Nazi Party in Germany or the Communist Party in Russia. Soon, if we do not put a stop to it, the fact will become generally accepted and a belief that political ambitions and activities are only proper for members and supporters of the New Deal members now in power; and the political activity on the part of others will gradually become accepted as treasonable activity. . . Congress must be forced to reassume this legislative function and end usurpation by the executive function. . . The Communists are using the very system they seek to destroy."

At the end of one section of the material which is devoted to religion is the following sentence: "Mr. MAGRIDER to supply quotations from Washington's Farewell Address and from Lincoln's Inaugural Speech."

Under a section of the material entitled "Economy of Government" is found the following: ". . . Yet Lend-Lease has nothing to do with national defense; true, it can be claimed that Lend-Lease is for international defense—but, this is America, and the spending of inconceivably vast sums of money further some plan of a band of international plotters in this country. . . Anglophiles, Russophiles, and Communists not included in either of these classifications) is to put it mildly the most flagrant treason ever perpetrated upon the American people. . ."

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[redacted] stated that no speeches are made by any members of the group and that there has been no dissemination of the material developed. He further advised that the group as a whole is strictly anti-Semitic.

The above-mentioned material has been returned to [redacted]

Members

At the time of the interview [redacted] advised that the organization of which he is a member consists of the following persons and it should be noted that in giving their names and addresses he was unable to furnish the correct spelling or correct addresses, however, subsequent investigation has verified the names and addresses as set out below:

JOSEPH ERNEST HARRIS  
7 East Montgomery Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

b7c

b7c

It should be noted that [redacted] stated that [redacted] is not a member of the organization but inasmuch as she is a close friend of HARRIS she does a great deal of the typing for them and her name is therefore being included in this list.

It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 100-3211 contains the following:

On June 1, 1942, [REDACTED], called at the Pittsburgh Field Office and volunteered the following information. [REDACTED] stated that he knew that [REDACTED] had been interviewed and that inasmuch as he was employed at [REDACTED] Pittsburgh, he wished to explain his connection with the above-mentioned organization as he did not wish to be under suspicion.

[REDACTED] gave substantially the same information as [REDACTED] with regard to the formation, set up, and members but stated that the organization has now disbanded and no longer meets. He further advised that the organization had at one time considered using the title "We the People, Inc." but that this name had never been adopted. With regard to the purpose of the group [REDACTED] stated that it was to strengthen the power of Congress and get Congress to exercise its proper functions and that he believed the purpose of the group of which he is a member is similar to the purpose and aims of the "League for Constitutional Government" but advised that his group was in no way connected with this League nor was it connected with any other organization. b7c b7D

According to [REDACTED] he has never heard any member of the group make any un-American statements; that none of the group has ever made any speeches, and that no publication has been given to the material developed by the group.

It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 100-577-419 reflects that on May 10, 1941, [REDACTED], whose identity is known to the Bureau, reported that a number of Fascist groups were officially closed in order that they might carry on their activities more effectively in some new form, an example being JOHN B. SNOW'S League for Constitutional Government formerly located at 18 East 48th Street, New York City. b2 b7D

Pittsburgh file 100-0-3038 reflects that included in a list of organizations opposed to aiding Britain but in favor of aiding Germany and its Allies is the League for Constitutional Government.

Pittsburgh file 61-0-169, page 44, reflects that the League for Constitutional Government distributes pamphlets of anti-Semitic and anti-Administration tenor.

The instant investigation revealed the following information with regard to the members of subject organization.

JOSEPH ERNEST HARRIS

Home Address: 7 East Montgomery Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Business Address: 402 Investment Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Occupation: Free lance labor consultant

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Neighborhood Investigation: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Selective Service Status: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Description:

The following description of HARRIS was obtained from [REDACTED] and from his Selective Service file:

Age	55
Date of birth	October 15, 1886
Birthplace	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Race	White
Height	5' 9"
Weight	170 lbs.
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Gray
Complexion	Light
Characteristics	Partially bald, wears glasses, neatly dressed

[REDACTED] Pittsburgh, Pa., made available to the writer the [REDACTED] report on HARRIS dated December 11, 1941, which reflects that his wife's first name is ALEDA; that his present occupation is labor consultant, and that his former occupation was Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., 402 Investment Building, Pittsburgh. No derogatory information was contained in the [REDACTED] file of HARRIS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] checked the records

their respective departments and stated they had no information on HARRIS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] b7E

It should be noted that a check of the indices of the Pittsburgh Field Office failed to reflect any information on the names contained in the above-reported [REDACTED]

The writer checked the morgue of the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph which reflected the following information. An article dated October 31, 1938, entitled "Sell American Stores Urged" states, "With 1330 consumers signed up the American Independent Workers Alliance is asking Pittsburgh district stores to buy only American-made products. JOSEPH E. HARRIS of East Montgomery Street, North Side, Honorary Vice-President of the organization said. . . "

An article dated January 17, 1939, reflects that at an election of officers of the American Independent Workers Alliance JOSEPH HARRIS was elected temporary President, RUTH DAWSON, Recording Secretary, HARRY CIFELLI, Statistician and librarian.

[REDACTED]

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: [REDACTED]

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b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Neighborhood:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] stated that he did not know [REDACTED] occupation but he thought that [REDACTED] writes for some religious organization and described the subject as a peculiar character who is somewhat of a "sissy". [REDACTED] further advised that [REDACTED] that he has a 1936 Ford, 2-door black sedan, bearing 1942 Pennsylvania license [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that [REDACTED] is a Harvard graduate, and that she thinks he is employed in some sort of work of keeping statistics for the government. She said he receives large franked envelopes from Washington, D. C. [REDACTED] further advised that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and that during this time neither [REDACTED] nor his mother has ever been in his place of business and that he knows nothing about them.

[REDACTED] stated he has known [REDACTED] as a customer for many years but that he knows nothing of [REDACTED] background, personal history, or his present occupation.

Selective Service Status:

[REDACTED] made available the Selective Service file of [REDACTED] which reflects that he registered February 16, 1942; that he received a B.A. degree from Harvard University, and that he was born [REDACTED]. In his Selective Service questionnaire [REDACTED] indicated that he is a historian and at present is and has spent 3½ years writing an [REDACTED] and stated that it had not been marketed. He indicated under "Other business engaged in", "home forum leader". [REDACTED] listed his previous occupational experience as [REDACTED]

In his Selective Service questionnaire [REDACTED] indicated as the occupation for which he is best fitted as "public affairs; writing, etc." [REDACTED] indicated that he lived with his mother [REDACTED]



and that he began contributing to her support in 1922; that she earned no money in the past year, and that he contributed his total income for the past 12 months in the amount of \$201.89 to her upkeep. The following information was contained in [REDACTED] Selective Service file: "Income of [REDACTED] cash profit from sale of common stock, \$165. Cash from common stock dividends \$310." [REDACTED] indicated that he earned \$10 from his work in the last 12 months and listed all other income as \$191.89. "My meager financial returns are the result of my volunteer services for worthwhile purposes. My years of big income were earlier. I conscientiously object to furtherance of destructive ends. Surely my country ought to have constructive objectives which I could promote without registering as a conscientious objector or accepting service with a military branch!"

Description:

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained from his Selective Service file and from [REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D

Age  
Race  
Birth date  
Birthplace  
Height  
Weight  
Eyes  
Hair  
Complexion  
Build  
Marital status  
Characteristics

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] made available the [REDACTED] report on [REDACTED] dated June 1, 1942, which indicates that he resides at [REDACTED] that he is reported to be a genealogist and writer and to have written two books on genealogy and to write for a monthly publication on the same subject. No derogatory information was contained in [REDACTED] report.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] checked the records of their respective offices and stated they had no information on [REDACTED]

b7E [REDACTED]

XXXXXX  
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100-4712-458 in p. 11

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[REDACTED]

A check of the indices of the Pittsburgh Field Office reflected that Pittsburgh file 61-0-169, page 33, contains a list of subversive organizations of the United States which reflects that the magazine "The Defender" is the official organ of the "Defenders of Christian Faith" [REDACTED]

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Pittsburgh Office file 100-2396 contains a copy of a letter dated December 15, 1941, at Pittsburgh, Pa., addressed to the Special Agent in Charge at Boston, Massachusetts, by which a letter and newspaper article were forwarded to the Boston Field Office which had been mailed by [REDACTED]

It should be noted that Pittsburgh Office file 102-4-1, page 10, reflects that [REDACTED]

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It should be noted that Pittsburgh Office file 100-621-11 reflects that the "Weekly People" is the official organ in the Socialist Party.

The September 1940 issue of the "Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine" contains, on pages 156 through 162, an article entitled, [REDACTED]

This article is strictly religious in tenor. This article contains the following foot note: "Presented as a part of the program provided by the Historical Society of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church at a meeting of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has written an [REDACTED] are the first of a projected series of volumes intended to cover the subject to date. Editor." This magazine is published quarterly by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 4338 Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh.

[REDACTED]

contains the following information on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

XXXXXX  
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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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100-4712-458 p. 13

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FBI/DO

[REDACTED] suggested that [REDACTED] might possess information concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he did not know [REDACTED] very well but that he had heard [REDACTED] mention the fact that [REDACTED] is of the type of Father COUGHLIN and that he had heard that [REDACTED] had been asked to speak before outside groups but that he did not know what groups or if he had accepted.

Selective Service Status:

[REDACTED], made available to the writer the Selective Service file of [REDACTED] which reflects that he registered April 27, 1942; that he listed his employer and the person always knowing his address as, [REDACTED]

Description:

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained from his Selective Service file:

Age  
Race  
Birth place  
Birth date  
Height  
Weight  
Eyes  
Hair  
Complexion

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] checked the records of this institution and reported that she had no record of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] checked the records of their respective organizations and reported that they had no [REDACTED] record on [REDACTED]

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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100-4712-458 in pp. 15-16

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It should be noted that according to an article appearing in the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph dated November 3, 1941, SAMUEL B. PETTINGII addressed an America First Committee meeting in Washington, D. C. It should be noted that [REDACTED] is the subject of Pittsburgh file 100-3440 captioned



"Internal Security, Registration Act, Sedition Act."

A check of the indices of the Pittsburgh Field Office reflects no further information [REDACTED]

It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 100-3440-3, page 2, reflects that an individual designated as [REDACTED] in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 26, 1942, at Huntington, W. Va., Huntington file 100-1897, furnished information that [REDACTED]

This individual (designated as [REDACTED] in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at Huntington, W. Va.) was unable to state definitely the name of the person who [REDACTED] but stated that it is fairly certain that such material or at least a part of it is furnished by [REDACTED]

It should be noted that the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 20, 1942, at Washington, D. C., captioned [REDACTED] with aliases", Pittsburgh file 100-3440-8, reflects that: "On June 5, 1942, the New York Field Office forwarded to the Washington Field Office the following information concerning [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]"

"The following unsolicited verbatim report was obtained from a confidential source believed to be reliable. Our informant was present at the home of subject.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

Pittsburgh file 61-0-169, pages 10 and 11, reflects that in August 1937 [REDACTED] attended the American Nationalist Confederation Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, which was called the American Christian Conference. This convention was held by GEORGE DEATHERAGE who also headed the Militant Christian Patriots.

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Pittsburgh file 100-3323-1, page 9, reflects that on March 23, 1942, the individual designated as [REDACTED] in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated April 23, 1942, at Huntington, W. Va., Huntington file 100-1736, advised that on March 21, 1942, [REDACTED]

[redacted], received a letter from [redacted] advising her that in a short time plans would be worked out for the overthrow of the government and that it is necessary that substantial leaders be obtained immediately. He is reported to have stated that the whole system is set up, even to the plans for the monetary system, and that the only thing lacking is group leaders throughout the country. This individual further advised that upon receipt of the above-described letter [redacted] became frightened and was afraid that this was a plot, to frame [redacted] so she forwarded the letter to [redacted], alias [redacted] with a request that she be advised whether or not it was authentic. According to this individual this letter was post marked at Newark, N. J., where [redacted] was at that time engaged in some sort of [redacted] work.

Page 9 of Pittsburgh file 100-3423 reflects that [REDACTED] is reported to receive his mail at a drug store near his home; that he is said to be closely associated with Father COUGHLIN and to be actively engaged in organizing anti-Semitic groups in the eastern part of the United States, and that in March 1942 he spent considerable time in Newark, N. J., making contact with individuals who are interested in promoting an organization opposed to Jews and members of the Masonic Lodge.

stated that

\_\_\_\_\_ were forwarded to the Technical Laboratory with the request that they be compared with the typewritten and handwritten material which was furnished to the writer by \_\_\_\_\_

By letter dated August 3, 1942, under Laboratory report 86309 and 86312, the Technical Laboratory reported that the typewriting on the material emanating from [REDACTED] was prepared on a machine equipped with Royal pica type, spaced 10 letters to an inch. It was further concluded that the typewriting on this material was not prepared on the same typewriter as the

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b7D material submitted by [REDACTED] nor was the handwriting prepared by the same individual as the handwriting on the material submitted by [REDACTED]. It was further concluded by the Technical Laboratory that the typewriting on the [REDACTED] material and the typewriting on the [REDACTED] material was not prepared on the same typewriter as the material submitted to the Technical Laboratory under the case entitled "Unknown Subjects, A. Before B Propaganda", Pittsburgh file 14-2.

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b7C [REDACTED] further advised that [REDACTED]

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: [REDACTED]

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b2D [REDACTED], made available to the writer the records of this institution which reflect that [REDACTED]

Neighborhood: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] verified the fact that [REDACTED] resides in [REDACTED] of this hotel and that he has been there for approximately six months. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] is quiet, has nothing much to say, and has very few visitors: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] was employed as a metallurgist [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that he has several college degrees; that he works ordinary hours, and is paid approximately \$1 per hour. He was born [REDACTED]

Description:

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Age [REDACTED]  
Race [REDACTED]  
Birth date [REDACTED]

Birth place  
Height  
Weight  
Hair  
Eyes  
Build  
Complexion  
Marital status

[REDACTED], checked  
the records of this organization and stated that he  
had no record of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
b7E  
[REDACTED]  
It should be noted that when interviewed in the Pitt  
burgh Field Office [REDACTED] advised that all of the members of instant organiz  
tion, with the exception of [REDACTED] are former members of the America  
First Committee.

b7c  
Residence Address:  
Business Address:

Occupation:

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b7D

Neighborhood:

b2  
b7D

[redacted] further advised that [redacted] is a Socialist and radically inclined but that the only person he ever noticed associating with to any degree was [redacted]

Selective Service Status:

[redacted] made available to the writer the Selective Service record of [redacted] which reflects that he registered February 16, 1942; that he was born [redacted] that he is employed by [redacted] that his salary was \$1797 in 1941; that his occupation is unlisted trader and statistician.

Description:

The following description of [redacted] was obtained from his Selective Service file and from [redacted]

Age  
Race  
Birth date  
Birth place  
Height  
Weight  
Eyes  
Hair  
Complexion  
Build  
Scars or marks

[redacted]

[redacted] made available to the writer a [redacted] report on [redacted] dated October 29, 1941, which reflects no information of value with regard to this investigation.

[redacted] ment, checked the files of their respective organizations and stated that they had no record on [redacted]

b7E

[REDACTED] and produced no information of value.

Residence Address:  
Business Address:

Occupation:

Neighborhood:

b7C  
b7D

Description:

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained from [REDACTED]

Age  
Race  
Height  
Weight  
Hair  
Complexion  
Build  
Distinguishing  
characteristics

[REDACTED] made available to the writer the [REDACTED] report on [REDACTED] which reflects that in 1937 she resided at [REDACTED] Pittsburgh, and was employed as [REDACTED] that in September 1943 she resided at [REDACTED] Pittsburgh, and was employed as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] checked the records of their respective organizations and stated they had no record on [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b2  
b7D [REDACTED] was again contacted and stated that he had no further information with regard to the America First Committee. [REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D On June 16, 1942, [REDACTED] telephonically advised the Pittsburgh Office that she was certain that the leaders of the America First Committee were still holding meetings at 7 East Montgomery Street, North Side, Pittsburgh. [REDACTED] advised further that this group had held a meeting on Sunday June 13, 1942, and although she was not positive of the place she believed it to be Centerville, Pa.

Upon interview [REDACTED] advised that she had received the following information with regard to the America First Committee from [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]

the America First Committee is still meeting at 7 East Montgomery Street, in the rear of the residence of [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] told her that [REDACTED] has a portable typewriter which she takes to the residence of JOSEPH E. HARRIS, 7 East Montgomery Street, where she does stenographic work for him; that [REDACTED] and her mother [REDACTED] are violently opposed to President ROOSEVELT and often call him obscene names.

On July 24, 1942, [REDACTED] called the writer and advised that there would be a meeting of the America First Committee at 7 East Montgomery Street on instant date at 8:30 P.M. The writer accompanied by Special Agent [REDACTED] conducted a surveillance on 7 East Montgomery Street from 8:00 P.M. until 9:30 P.M., during which time there was no evidence of a meeting at this address.



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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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b7c  
b7D

b2  
b7D

[REDACTED] advised that the above list does not contain the names of all the persons who have [REDACTED] but does contain the names of [REDACTED]

b7c It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 14-3-4 reflects that [REDACTED] was a member of the America First Committee from April 1941 to its dissolution on December 8, 1941, and that she was the subject of a section investigation by the Pittsburgh Field Office

A confidential source made available to the writer the following list of individuals who had completed mimeographed forms addressed to the America First Committee and containing the following statement: "I am willing to serve actively in the work indicated below, and will be available for the days and time as follows:

b7c

[REDACTED]

It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 100-0-2847 contains information alleging that [REDACTED] is pro-Fascist and pro-Italian.

Pittsburgh file 100-0-3363 reflects that [REDACTED] has made several un-American statements at the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation plant where he is employed in the time department and that he was formerly a flagrant member of the America First Committee.

It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 100-0-1573 reflects that [REDACTED] may be a Communist and is anti-British and an isolationist.

A search of the indices of the Pittsburgh Field Office reflected no information on the other individuals contained in the above list.

A confidential source also advised that the local Pittsburgh Committee of the America First Committee was composed of the following individuals:

b7c [REDACTED]

It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 100-0-2190 reflects that [REDACTED] was reported in September 1941 to have cursed the President and made the statement that Roosevelt just wanted the seas opened for England; that the President did not write one of his speeches but that some Jew did; that [REDACTED] stated that he was 100% with the Nazis, and that Germany would take this country over and shoot all the Jews; that when the Germans came here they would not fool around like they did in Europe. This file further reflects that [REDACTED] belonged to the America First Committee.

It should be noted that Pittsburgh file 100-2307-1A(2) reflects that [REDACTED] was among the sponsors of an advertisement appearing in the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph on March 15, 1942, requesting contributions to Russian War Relief, Inc.

b7c Pittsburgh file 100-0-3371 reflects that on December 10, 1941, [REDACTED] addressed a letter to the President in which he severely criticized the President for his manner of speech and his administration of the Government. Pittsburgh file 100-0-2134 reflects that on August 20, 1941, [REDACTED] addressed a letter to Lieutenant General BEN LEAR in which he criticized the Jews, the British Empire, labor, farm relief, and the Army, and stated that "the organization to which I belong will show you at the next Congressional election how to change the complexion of Congress..."

Pittsburgh file 67-0-4347 reflects that [REDACTED] was an applicant for the position of Special Agent with the Bureau in May 1941.

b7c b7D Pittsburgh file 100-47 reflects that [REDACTED] was an informant in the case entitled [REDACTED]

A check of the indices of the Pittsburgh Field Office reflects no further information on the above-listed individuals.

[REDACTED] stated that JOSEPH E. HARRIS keeps on the top of his desk the following telephone list:

b7c [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Pittsburgh file 100-3888 reflects that on December 7, 1941, a meeting of members of the America First Committee was held at the residence of [REDACTED] Pittsburgh; that approximately 20 people attended this meeting, and that the following were present:

[REDACTED]

This file further reflects that the group was addressed by a woman from New York, name unknown, who spoke derogatorily about Great Britain and expressed her belief that both the President and his wife should be thrown out of the White House and that no one should offer service in civilian defense programs.

Pittsburgh file 100-31-90, page 48, reflects that the name of [REDACTED], Pittsburgh, appears in the card file of the American Peace Mobilization.

b7c

A check of the indices of the Pittsburgh Office reflects no further information on the names contained on HARRIS' telephone list.

[REDACTED] advised that the office of JOSEPH E. HARRIS is being used by the Independent Electors Committee of Pennsylvania in the political campaign of JAMES J. DAVIS for governor and that HARRIS is the author of a book entitled "Arbitration versus Strikes" which is published by Watkins and Company, 1560 East Ohio St., Pittsburgh. According to a confidential source JOSEPH E. HARRIS is a member of and interested in the American Independent Labor Association which association is an outgrowth of the organization formerly known as the "Defenders of America".

A highly confidential source made available to the writer a credential card of the American Independent Labor Association, a mimeographed legal size sheet entitled "World Jack Pot" concerning an article with regard to Germany, United States, British, and Italian bankers profiting as partners in spite of the war, and a typewritten specimen from the Royal typewriter located in the office of HARRIS. The American Independent Labor Association credential card and the "World Jack Pot" are being retained in the Pittsburgh file and the typewritten specimen has been forwarded to the Technical Laboratory.

A confidential source also made available to the writer a letter addressed to [REDACTED] Pittsburgh, bearing the return address of [REDACTED], which letter contained the salutation, "Dear [REDACTED]"



A check of the indices of the Pittsburgh Office failed to reflect any information concerning [REDACTED]

A highly confidential source made available to the writer the following list containing names of individuals connected with the American Independent Labor Association:

b7c

the contents of which are as follows:

"Haven't seen any men with turned down hats yet, so the F.B.I. must not be on trial. Will look for them any day.

apartment. "When write me do so at [REDACTED] not here at

The same source of information had no further information with regard to the activities of [REDACTED] or the instant organization.

- 35 -

b7c Post Office Station, and that there is no post office box for [REDACTED] at the Bellevue Post Office. [REDACTED] Further advised that on September 19, 1941, [REDACTED] in the name of the America First Committee, 629 Liberty Avenue, made application to mail matter without fixing stamps and that in the application he designated that he would mail 10,000 pieces twice monthly. Permit #696 was issued on September 19, 1941, and it is still in effect but the last mail sent was on December 5, 1941, and the America First Committee still has \$10 on deposit.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY

Will ascertain the nature of the Polish Information Center, 151 East 67th Street and if subversive the connection between it and subject organization as [REDACTED]

Will discreetly ascertain the nature of the Committee for Constitutional, SAMUEL B. PETTINGILL, Chairman, 205 East 42nd Street and if subversive what connection exists with subject organization as [REDACTED] PETTINGILL addressed the America First Committee in Washington, D. C., on or about November 3, 1941.

Will discreetly ascertain the name of the individual residing at [REDACTED] and his connection with instant organization as [REDACTED]

Will ascertain the nature of and possible connection of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, Room 814, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue with subject organization as [REDACTED]

Will discreetly ascertain the activities of [REDACTED]

THE PHILADELPHIA FIELD DIVISION

AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Will discreetly ascertain the connection between [REDACTED]

AT SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Will discreetly ascertain the nature of the establishment at 1313 Prospect Avenue and possible connection with subject organization as [REDACTED]

THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION

AT WICHITA, KANSAS

Will discreetly ascertain what connection exists between instant organization and the Defenders of Christian Faith whose publication,

The Defender, is [REDACTED]

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

AT BASS RIVER, CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS

Will ascertain what connection [REDACTED] has with instant organization and [REDACTED]

Will ascertain the nature of the World's Fellowship, Inc., Auxiliary Worlds Government Foundation, and if subversive the connection with instant organization as [REDACTED]

AT CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Will ascertain what connection [REDACTED] has with instant organization and [REDACTED] It should be noted that the Pittsburgh Office by letter dated December 15, 1941, forwarded to the Boston Office material [REDACTED]

AT UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Will discreetly ascertain the activities of the parish priest of the Holy Angels Church and his connection with instant organization. [REDACTED]

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT BEVERLEY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

Will ascertain what connection [REDACTED] has with instant organization as [REDACTED]

THE MIAMI FIELD DIVISION

AT ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Will discreetly ascertain what connection exists between [REDACTED] and instant organization as [REDACTED]

THE SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

AT MOLINE, ILLINOIS

Will ascertain what connection exists between [redacted]  
[redacted] and instant organization as [redacted]

THE SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION

AT RANCHO SANTA FE

Will discreetly ascertain what connection exists between [redacted]  
[redacted] and instant organization as [redacted]

THE CLEVELAND FIELD DIVISION

AT LORAIN, OHIO

Will discreetly ascertain the activities of and the connection  
with subject organization of [redacted]

b7c  
b7E  
THE OMAHA FIELD DIVISION

AT OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Will discreetly ascertain the nature of the firm of [redacted]  
[redacted] and the connection with instant organization.

THE MILWAUKEE FIELD DIVISION

AT PULASKI, WISCONSIN

Will contact [redacted] and ascertain the background  
and other pertinent information concerning [redacted]

THE HUNTINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA

b2  
b7D  
b7C  
Will again contact the person designated as [redacted]  
[redacted] in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 20,  
1942, at Huntington, captioned [redacted] Huntington file 100-1897, for  
additional information concerning the activities of [redacted] and the con-  
nection of [redacted] with subject organization. It should be  
noted that reference is also made to [redacted] in the report of Special  
Agent [redacted] dated April 23, 1942, at Huntington, W. Va., captioned  
[redacted] Huntington file 100-1376.

THE CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

AT MENDOTA, ILLINOIS

Will discreetly ascertain the activities of and the connect with the subject organization of [REDACTED] Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 26, 1942, at Huntington captioned [REDACTED]

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

b7c  
b2D  
Will ascertain the connection of [REDACTED] with instant organization as [REDACTED] Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 20, 1942, at Washington, D. C., captioned [REDACTED] with aliases".

Will discreetly ascertain the activities of the Franciscan Fathers, 1362 Monroe Street, N.E., as relating to subject organization as this [REDACTED]

THE DES MOINES FIELD DIVISION

AT SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Will ascertain the activities of [REDACTED] for possible connection with subject organization as requested by Pittsburgh letter dated July 29, 1942.

THE PITTSBURGH FIELD DIVISION

AT PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Will continue to follow and report activities of subject organization.

Will again contact [REDACTED] for additional information regarding [REDACTED] source of income.

Will again contact [REDACTED] for additional addresses of an information pertaining to [REDACTED]

Will again contact [REDACTED] for information concerning the meetings of subject organization at 402 Investment Building.

Will ascertain the nature of the Franciscan Educational Conference with the possibility that [REDACTED] is using this organization for the distribution of propaganda as [REDACTED] is reported to be a member



this Conference.

b7c Will attempt to ascertain the name of the real estate agent who is reported to be working with [REDACTED] in the formation of chapters of subject organization in Pittsburgh.

Will follow and report results of the Laboratory examination requested by Pittsburgh letter dated August 31, 1942.

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## Section 552

## Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☒ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

□ (b)(3)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

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**FBI/DC**

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 100-657

REPORT MADE AT <b>Salt Lake City, Utah</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9-12-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8-17-42; 9-1, 8-42.</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Further investigation indicates that this organization has been totally disbanded and is not active in any way in Salt Lake City at the present time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJS/K

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED], Salt Lake City, Utah dated 5-25-42.

**DETAILS:**

Agent recontacted [REDACTED] who advised he had made some additional inquiries since contacted by Agent [REDACTED] that as far as he had been able to ascertain, the America First Committee had not been active in any way in the vicinity of Salt Lake City, since it was officially disbanded after December 7, 1941.

On September 3, 1942, [REDACTED] again contacted Agent [REDACTED] stated that he had recently conversed with a [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] had had inquiries made indirectly of [REDACTED] who was very active in the America First Committee; that [REDACTED] now stated that the America First Committee has been entirely disbanded, and then asked whether the former America First Committee was being used as a nucleus for a new organization, he stated that there may be a few "crackpots" who are trying to start a new organization out of the old America First Committee, but that he had not to do with same and knew of no such attempts in the vicinity of Salt Lake City.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Jay E. Newman</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>100-472-4459</b> <b>15 SEP 16 1942</b>
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b2  
b7D  
b7C  
[redacted] pointed out that [redacted] has been active in the Rosier-  
sian Fellowship, and recently an article appeared in the local newspaper to  
the effect that [redacted] had made a trip to Los Angeles to give a series of lec-  
tures to Rosier-sian organizations in that vicinity.

b2  
b7D  
b7C  
Agent recontacted [redacted] who stated that he had been unable to  
develop any additional information to that furnished to Special Agent [redacted]  
that the organization he was trying to think of when conversing with Agent  
[redacted] was the Rosier-sians, with which [redacted] was affiliated, and he  
pointed out that he had read in the paper recently that [redacted] had made a trip  
to Los Angeles to address the Rosier-sian Fellowship in that vicinity.

The article above referred to appeared in the "Salt Lake Telegram"  
[redacted] and was a short item to the effect that [redacted] he  
of the Rosier-sian Fellowship of Utah, would leave Salt Lake City to make a  
series of lectures to societies in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

b2  
b7D  
b7C  
Recently while conversing with [redacted] in connec-  
tion with investigation of a case entitled [redacted] with aliases; INTERNAL  
SECURITY - G, Agent was advised that [redacted] was an employee of  
the [redacted] and had been so employed  
for the past twelve years. This informant stated that [redacted] was very ac-  
tive in the America First Committee, particularly in the summer and fall of  
1941 and [redacted]

[redacted] Informant stated that he had questioned [redacted]  
concerning her activities in the Committee at this time and that eventually  
she made the trip East. He stated that [redacted] had never to his knowledge  
[redacted] that to the best of his knowledge she is not active  
in any such organization at the present time.

In view of the above information, it is not believed that any good  
purpose would be served at this time by interviewing [redacted]

P E N D I N G

**UNDEVELOPED LEADS:**

**THE SALT LAKE CITY OFFICE:**

**\* AT RENO, NEVADA,**

Through confidential informants and appropriate sources, will ascertain if any individuals or groups may be using the America First Committee in a manner detrimental to the Internal Security of this country.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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FBI/D

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO

100-139

REPORT MADE AT <b>DES MOINES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9/19/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/28, 26, 27, 28; 9/2, 3/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Dubuque chapter, America First Committee, organized May 1941. Dissolved 12/7/41. Backed by Arch Bishop FRANK [REDACTED] of Dubuque who was very active in national organization. Local President MAUPTLI was former empl of Sears Roebuck, Chicago, and personal friend of General ROBERT L. WOOD. Members were well known Republicans and members of Social Justice in Dubuque. No evidence of continued activity or foreign influence. List of office activities, and out-of-town speakers obtained from confidential informants.

-P-

**Reference:** Bureau letter to Des Moines dated 3/16/42;  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Des Moines, 5

**Details:** AT DUBUQUE, IOWA

[REDACTED] stated that the America First Committee had been very active during its brief life and that the President had been HERBERT L. MAUPTLI who was also president of the Maizewood Products Company and president of the Chamber of Commerce. [REDACTED] said the Committee headquarters were at Sixth and Main Street and that there had been a good many out-of-town speakers who had addressed miscellaneous meetings in Dubuque. [REDACTED] said that the Committee had a few complete mailing lists and that although he had never been a member he had received many of their pamphlets and advertisements. [REDACTED] said that as far as he knew, the Committee had

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [REDACTED]</p> <p>COPIES DESTROYED 3/24/78</p> <p>RECEIVED 2 Chicago 2 Des Moines</p>	<p>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p>RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</p> <p>13 SEP 23 1942</p> <p>10-22-90</p> <p>b7c</p>
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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-27-05 BY SP2/mgs

7/6/67 SP2/TSJ/RBG



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been completely disbanded and all of the officers and leading members are presently "flag wavers". He said that Mr. HAUPTLI is among the leaders in the local civilian defense projects and had been the sponsor of many bond drives.

b2  
b7D  
[redacted] stated that the America First Committee in Dubuque had been made up of many of the regular "joiners" of the community, outstanding Republicans, and members of the Social Justice organization. The informant said that in his estimation they were not the most intelligent people in the town although they were some of the most prominent. Arch Bishop BECKMAN was affiliated with the organization but strictly from the humanitarian angle. Since December 7, 1941, Arch Bishop BECKMAN has become a "red hot" foot for the American and presently insists that his Priests pay monthly calls to mothers and families of boys who are in the service. The Arch Bishop also encourages his young Priests to join the Army as Chaplains. Informant said that many people in Dubuque had been more or less "duped into the organization and had afterwards been very sorry that they had become involved." [redacted] said that he is in a position to know about any present activities of the Committee and that from his observations, both the Social Justice organization and the America First Committee are dissolved and not active at the present time.

[redacted] was acquainted with many of the outstanding members of the America First Committee and after rather discreet inquiry into their present activities, stated that there is no evidence of continued activities of the Committee. Informant stated that many of the members have swerved from an anti-war to pro-war effort completely and at present are very active in the war effort, civilian defense, and bond sales. This informant revealed that President HERBERT HAUPTLI of the organization was a personal friend of General ROBERT E. WOOD and was connected with the Sears Roebuck Company in Chicago prior to his coming to Dubuque about two years ago. It is the common opinion of the members that it was through his effort that the Committee was formed and that can be directly traced to General WOOD.

[redacted] was interviewed on pretext and stated that he had been an active member of the America First Committee but had withdrawn just prior to December 7. [redacted] said that the Committee was formed and became active under the leadership of President HAUPTLI who was in some way connected with General WOOD. [redacted] said that as far as he knows the America First Committee is quite inactive at the present time and that most members are even ashamed to admit that they even belonged to the organization.

[REDACTED] revealed that the following were the officers of the America First Committee in Dubuque: b2 b7D

FRED A. HAUPTLI, president. Mr. HAUPTLI is [REDACTED]

FRED A. HOERNER, first vice president, [REDACTED]

Dr. VINCENT CONNELLY, second vice president, [REDACTED] b7C

Mrs. CARL D. HOERNER, secretary, [REDACTED]

Miss CATHERINE GEISLER, [REDACTED]

HERMAN LOTT, treasurer [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that when the America First Committee was at its peak it had probably 600 members of whom very few were active. Due to the short life of the Committee the informant did not believe that any subversive influences had come to bear upon it and that at present it is quite completely dissolved. The informant said that any outside influences would have come in the form of speakers to the various meetings and that she could remember no one other than a man named NORDSBORG who spoke before the Committee on July 21, 1941. The informant described Mr. NORDSBORG as follows: b2 b7D

Height--5'8"  
Weight--180  
Complexion--Dark  
Build--Stocky  
Hair--Dark  
Age--Approximately 50

The informant was unable to furnish NORDSBORG's first name. She stated that he traveled with his wife and daughter and that he was quite a well known figure skater in the United States. NORDSBORG appeared before a meeting of the active members of the Committee and made a speech at a dinner given at Kertz Cafeteria. He was rather heated in his denunciations of the administration and stated that the President and Congress were traitors to the

people of the United States and should be indicted and impeached immediately. After this speech Mr. NORDSBORG proceeded to take up a collection for the purpose of going to Washington and indicting the President and Congress. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He further stated that the Committee did not trust NORDSBORG as they did not know anything about his background but that President HAUPTLI was quite "sold" on him and very much in favor of his going to Washington for the above purpose. President HAUPTLI endeavored to get the endorsement of General WOOD for NORDSBORG but failed in this attempt. NORDSBORG returned to Dubuque several times about this meeting but did not collect all of the pledges due to the fact that the Committee after an investigation found that he never went near Washington but had been spending his time in California. The informant was unable to offer any further information on the background or activities of NORDSBORG.

[REDACTED] is of the opinion that the Committee at the present time is completely disbanded and that there is no activity whatever. Informant said that any such activity would have come to informant's notice and that there had never even been any attempts to reform the committee along any underlines or any other name. b2 b7D

[REDACTED] furnished a list exactly similar to the list of officers set out above under the interview with [REDACTED]. This informant stated that there had been no evidence of any subversive or foreign influence brought to bear upon the committee during its brief life and that at present it has completely disbanded. [REDACTED]

The following information was made available by [REDACTED] on Mr. NORDSBORG.

ANDREAS B. NORDSBORG was a financial writer and expert from Los Angeles, California, who had appeared on a great many America First Committee programs throughout the country with CHARLES A. LINDBERGH. Mr. NORDSBORG was accompanied by his daughter who is a well known roller skating champion of the United States. The informant stated that the Committee made an investigation of NORDSBORG after his collection of \$1,500.00 and determined that he had at one time been a teacher in the Los Angeles Public School system. Informant said that NORDSBORG was not trusted by the members of the Committee except President HAUPTLI and had been dropped when it was discovered that he was misusing the funds which he had collected.

[REDACTED] stated that in addition to NORDSBORG the following speakers had appeared in Dubuque under the auspices of the America First Committee at a large peace rally held at Loras College Stadium in June of 1941:

Arch Bishop FRANCIS BECKMAN of the Arch Diocese in Dubuque.

General ROBERT E. WOOD of Chicago.

Colonel CHARLES A. LINDBERGH.

Senator BURTON H. HESLER.

Mrs. JANET AYER FAIRBLAINS? Chicago, novelist.

This informant declared that the organization in Dubuque had been made up of townspeople well known for their patriotism and good character. There was no outside influence brought to bear upon the committee even from other America First organizations in the State. In August of 1941 the Dubuque Chapter was very severely criticized by Chicago headquarters for not being active enough in spreading literature and increasing membership in the committee.

Informant said that if any outside influence would have been brought to bear it would have been through President MAUPTLI who had come from Chicago or through ANDRAE KORDSBORG. The informant was quite sure that there is no continued activities of the committee and that there are no subsidiary organizations set-up in Dubuque under another name to carry on any of its work. The informant also advised that a list of the 600 committee members could be produced with some difficulty but that if it was necessary it would be submitted. At present, HERBERT MAUPTLI has the records in his possession in the offices of the Maizewood Products Company.

-PENDING-

\*UNDEVELOPED LEADS-

THE DES MOINES FIELD DIVISION

AT DES MOINES, IOWA

- \* Will develop confidential informants and conduct investigation for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the structure set up by the America First Committee is now being used by foreign interests or by individuals cooperating with foreign interests in such a manner as to interfere with the war effort.

AT DAVENPORT, IOWA

- \* Will conduct similar investigation.

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Newark, New Jersey

September 25, 1942 *b7c*

100-5606

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: <sup>0</sup> AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
Internal Security - G

Dear Sir:

There is being transmitted herewith for the information of the Bureau a copy of a speech made by CHARLES A. LINDBERGH before an America First Committee rally at Cleveland, Ohio August 9, 1941.

The speech is stamped "AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, Hudson County Chapter, 340 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, N. J., Journal Square 2-1937", and was received at this office from an unknown source.

Very truly yours,

#249,862  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/6/87 BY SP8BJT/RBG  
10-22-90 SP8BJT/L

E. E. CONROY  
Special Agent in Charge

Encl.

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AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
HUDSON COUNTY CHAPTER  
340 PALISADE AVENUE  
JERSEY CITY, N. J.  
Journal Square 2-1937

340 PALISADE AVE.  
JERSEY CITY, N. J.

ADDRESS OF CHARLES A. LINDBERGH AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1941

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/16/87 BY SP8BJ/RB6

Speaking before an AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE rally in Cleveland Public Auditorium, tonight, Charles A. Lindbergh said:

There is no need for me to outline to you the seriousness of the situation we face today in America. In the past, we have gone on the assumption that our country was governed according to the will of the people. That has been taken for granted as a part of the American system of life. We were taught, even as school children, that government by the people was inseparable from the freedom and liberty for which our forefathers fought. We were taught that, as American citizens, we inherited the right to know about, and to vote upon the fundamental politics of our nation. In the past, we have elected candidates to represent us, and not to rule us. In the past, our President was responsible to our representatives in Congress. And the Supreme Court sat, incorruptibly, as a final safeguard for freedom and justice in our nation. Each one of these branches of government, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial, was intended to be a check upon the others, that our American way of life might be preserved.

But now the question arises whether we any longer have a representative system of government in this country, whether we any longer have the right to know about, and to vote upon, the fundamental policies of our nation. We are faced with the stark fact that we have been carried to the verge of war against the opposition of a majority of our people -- a war not of defense, but of attack; a war not in America, but in Europe and Asia. We are faced with the realization that our President consults our representatives in Congress with less and less frequency, and that, while the direct attempt to pack our Supreme Court failed, its membership has now changed indirectly through retirements. We are faced with the knowledge that the most important issue of our generation -- that of peace or war; that of defense or attack; that of whether or not the destiny of America is to be merged with the destiny of Europe -- has not been placed before a vote of our people. That issue has been withheld from us, and withheld intentionally.

National polls show that from the time this war started in Europe, when Americans were asked whether or not we should enter it, the overwhelming majority answered "NO!" National polls, today, show that the great majority of our people still stand opposed to entering the war. But step by step we have been carried toward it. The Administration in Washington has not even tried to follow the mandate of our people to stay out of war. Many of the office holders in our Government have made every effort to evade that mandate. Instead of informing us, they have withheld information. Instead of taking steps to keep us out of war, they have taken steps to get us into war. From the repeal of the arms embargo to the occupation of Iceland, we have become more and more involved. And each step we have made toward war has been with the promise of the Administration that it was for the purpose of keeping us out.

Men and women of Ohio: While there is still time to think and speak freely, Americans must ask themselves this question -- Are we operating under a government by representation, or are we operating under a government by subterfuge? If our Government carries us to war with the majority of our people against it, are we not faced with a problem that is even more fundamental than war itself?

I fully realize that the charge of subterfuge is serious in the extreme; but let me recall to your minds a few of the facts that lie behind it. Do you remember how we were told that the repeal of the arms embargo would be the surest way to keep this country out of war? The same people who tell us now that we must go to war, told us then that it was only necessary to sell arms on a "cash and carry" basis in order to insure victory for the Allies. They were emphatic in saying that no one asked us to lend money, or to send troops abroad. It was only last spring that the "Lend-Lease" Bill was passed, again with promises that it would keep us out of war; but by that time we were informed that we had to lend arms in order to insure victory. You remember as well as I all those other steps that the Administration said were so definitely "short of war" -- the transfer of planes, and warships, and cannon; the draft of men; the expenditure of countless millions. We were never told the true meaning of the measures the Administration asked us to support. During the weeks before election we were told "again and again and again" that American

boys would not be sent to fight in foreign wars. But we now find that inside of these sweetened promises of peace lay the deadly pills of war, and that we have been swallowing them one after another for many months. We find that while the American people were promised peace, the British people were given to understand that we would enter war. Only a few days ago, the Prime Minister of England confidently told his people that America is on the verge of war. British generals discuss openly when and where an American Expeditionary Force is to be sent. And our President does not renew his promise. Now that the elections are over, we in America ask in vain to be told, even once "again" that our boys will not be sent to fight in foreign wars.

These are not the only proofs of the subterfuge in our present Government. Let me cite a few more examples. Not many months ago, our President told us that "convoys mean shooting, and shooting means war". Then, a little later, when we objected to the use of convoys, we were informed that our navy was not "convoying," but that it was already being used to "patrol" the seas for an indefinite distance from our shores. The word "patrol" has been substituted for the word "convoy", and possibly the letter of the law was satisfied; but whatever may be the legal technicalities, the fact remains that the American people were misled.

The hypocrisy and subterfuge that surrounds us comes out in every statement of the war party. When we demand that our Government listen to the 80% of the people who oppose war, they shout that we are causing disunity. The same groups who call on us to defend democracy and freedom abroad, demand that we kill democracy and freedom at home by forcing four-fifths of our people into war against their will. The one-fifth who are for war call the four-fifths who are against war the "fifth column."

These interventionists, who call themselves the defenders of freedom and democracy, dare not place the issue of war to a vote of our people. They dared not let us vote on war at the last election, and they dare not let us vote on war today. They are afraid to put the issue to a referendum of the people, or to a vote of Congress. They know that the people of this country will not vote for war, and they therefore plan on involving us through subterfuge. As I said months ago, I have listened to interventionists in this country argue among

themselves about what steps "short of war" would take us into war most quickly.

Men and women of Ohio: The war party's plan is clear. Since this country will not enter war willingly, they plan on creating incidents and situations which will force us into it. The interventionists know that if our defense program is extended far enough into Europe or Asia, they can get us into a foreign war under the guise of defending America. They now say, with all the power of their propaganda, that we must occupy Africa in order to defend America. They say that we must control islands lying off the coast of the Eastern hemisphere. They want us to send our soldiers to the East Indies, the Cape Verdes, the Canaries, Madeira, the Azores, Ireland, and possibly England as well. And they know that if our occupation of Iceland doesn't bring on the shooting, the occupation of these other places will.

We are told that we must fight for the freedom of mankind. But the greatest battle for freedom is being fought right here in America today. If we cannot maintain our freedom in the New World, we cannot force freedom on the Old World. What is freedom if it is not the right of a free people to vote on the issue of foreign war? Where is freedom if four-fifths of a nation can be carried to war against its will? Where is freedom when Americans ask unanswered whether or not our navy has already fought upon the sea -- whether or not our forces have already been sent abroad? Where is freedom when the American army is sent to occupy an island of Europe without our Congress even being asked? Where is freedom when it becomes disunity for citizens to meet and discuss their beliefs on the fundamental issues of their nation? Where has freedom gone when we in America are not even informed of the underlying intentions of our Government; when the agents of a foreign power are encouraged to speak and to travel throughout our land, while the same lecture halls that are open to them are closed to those of us who place the welfare and independence of our own country above the interests of any foreign power?

I will tell you where freedom lies today. It lies in the meetings of fearless men and women throughout this land -- in meetings such as we are holding here in Cleveland tonight; in hundreds of similar meetings in every section of the United States -- in cities, in

villages, and on farms. Freedom for us in America lives or dies with the success of these gatherings of our citizens. Freedom for us does not lie on any Soviet battlefield, or on any coastline of Europe, Africa, or Asia. It lies today in the question of whether or not the action of our Government in America is controlled by the will of our people. If we are represented in Washington, we are free men; but if we are ruled by Washington, we are not. Freedom lies in the support we give to those patriots in Congress who still stand undauntedly opposed to war, who still listen to the voice of the people they represent. Freedom for us depends on whether or not we are ready to protect and carry it on through these days of trial and war.

The America First Committee has been organized by American citizens who are ready to fight to maintain the freedom and independence we inherited from our forefathers. We have organized to give voice and strength to the great majority of Americans who oppose this war. We have organized to make their influence - your influence - effective. We stand for the right to vote on the vital issues of our nation. We stand for the right of citizens to meet and to discuss the problems of war and peace. We stand for the right of those who do the paying and the dying, to also have a voice in the deciding. We stand for an impregnable defense and an independent America. If you stand with us, we ask you to join our Committee. We ask you to help us organize these meetings. We ask you to write to your Congressmen and Senators in Washington, demanding that they heed the voice of the people who elected them, and that they in turn demand that the people of our nation be accurately informed of the developments of this war, and of the actions and intentions of our Government.

Men and women of Ohio: For two years, I have traveled through this country, speaking in opposition to our entering the war. I have said that I believe it would be disastrous, both for America and Europe, if we took part in it. But the issue today is even greater than the issue of war or peace. It is the issue of whether or not we still have a representative government; whether or not we in the United States of America are still a free people, with the right to decide the fundamental policies of our nation. This is an issue that strikes to the foundations of our way of living, our government, and our rights as citizens. This meeting tonight and the meetings like it

that are being held all over this country, are held to protest that this nation was founded on the principle of government by consent of the people -- an informed people, a trusted people. These meetings are held to demonstrate our adherence to this principle. If you believe in this principle, we ask you to make your voice heard by our Government in Washington. We urge you to speak, to work, and to pray -- that representative government may not perish from this nation.

" " " " " " "

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-687**

REPORT MADE AT <b>SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9-22-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/11-14/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject organization never active in State of Nevada although believed to have had a financial contributors in the State.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BUC**

**REFERENCE:** Bureau letter dated 3-16-42  
Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 5-25-42.

**DETAILS:** Discreet inquiry of [REDACTED] indicated that there has never been any active chapter of the subject organization in Reno or in the State of Nevada.

**WILLIAM KANE**, Assistant United States Attorney and former inspector of Immigration and Naturalization Service advised that there has never been any chapter of America First in Reno or in the State of Nevada. He stated that there had been a few contributors to the organization in the State but that he could not name any of them at this time.

[REDACTED] advised that there has never been any chapter of subject organization in the State and that this organization never received any publicity in the Nevada Journal or the Reno Evening Gazette.

[REDACTED] advised that he does not recall ever seeing any literature of this organization [REDACTED] although he is acquainted with the organization and its National Movement.

**- CLOSED -**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. 100-1395

REPORT MADE AT <b>DES MOINES, IOWA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9-28-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8-13, 14, 15-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Davenport Chapter American First organized loosely under normal leadership of prominent Republican isolationist but initiative largely in hands of pro-German individuals. Committee rooms maintained as gathering place of generally subversive elements. Officially disbanded December 7, 1941; committee rooms deserted two weeks later. Organization, Davenport, never represented more than a little group of individuals and probably no effort made to maintain the physical structure subsequent to our entry into the war.

- P -

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau letter to Des Moines, Iowa, dated March 16, 1942.  
Report of Special Agent [redacted], Des Moines, Iowa, dated May 22, 1942.

**DETAILS:**

**AT DAVENPORT, IOWA**

A careful review of the files of the Davenport Daily Times over a period during which the America First Committee was active in this District, reveals that the Committee had very little publicity except for a brief period about the time Senator NYE was engaged to speak before Davenport audience, August 16, 1941. On August 11, 1941 a brief article noted that a Mrs. WILLIAM VORDERBERG, 1212 Division Street, had been named temporary chairman. On August 12, 1941, it is noted that Judge W. W. SCOTT of the Iowa District Court had been named permanent chairman. On August 18, 1941, the rally which had been

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*J. L. Latta*  
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held August 16th was reported attended by 3,500 people. At the same time the paper reported that the American First Committee announced a Davenport membership of one thousand.

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b7D  
[redacted], who has already furnished valuable information to this office relative to the instant matter was recontacted in regard to the activities of the America First Committee in the closing days of its official existence. [redacted]

[redacted] stated that the committee rooms have been maintained by the society some two weeks after American's entrance into the war. [redacted]

[redacted] He said that the essence of all this conversation had been "they have gotten us into it haven't they?".

[redacted] was unable to furnish any further pertinent information.

[redacted] was interviewed by Agent on the advice of [redacted] and was very cooperative. [redacted]

[redacted] but that his connection with the committee had never gone beyond this. He had instructed them not to use his name on the letterheads [redacted] was unfamiliar with the activities of the Committee subsequent to the Nye Rally in August, 1941, and said he assumed the Committee had died a natural death following our entrance into war.

[redacted] was contacted regarding his knowledge of the active membership of the group and stated that it included such supposedly pro-Axis individuals as [redacted]

It would appear that the organization was never physically strong and that except for a brief period of publicity surrounding Senator Nye's appearance in Davenport the Committee never received great public interest but remained the instrument of a few individuals and there is no evidence that these individuals have not made any effort to utilize the structure set up by the America First Committee in Iowa for interests subversive to the national welfare.

All those individuals active in the America First Committee are known to this office. Included in that group is [REDACTED]

b7C

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE DES MOINES FIELD DIVISION

AT DES MOINES, IOWA

- \* Will develop confidential informants and conduct investigation for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the structure set up by the America First Committee in Iowa is now being used by foreign interests or by individuals cooperating with foreign interests in such a manner as to interfere with the war effort.

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## Section 552

## Section 552a

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Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FBI/D

RECEIVED 400-4712-464

October 16, 1942

SAC, Pittsburgh

RE: WE THE PEOPLE, INC.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

b7c

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 1, 1942, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, entitled "America First Committee, Internal Security - C".

A review of the reference report reflects the activity of a small local group of individuals who were formerly members of the America First Committee. However, their activity does not represent a continuation of that Committee in any sense of the word. Accordingly, it is requested the investigation outlined in reference report and dealing with the following individuals be reported in the future under the above caption: [redacted]

With reference to the undeveloped leads set out in reference report, it is believed many of these can be ignored as can be seen by the following examples:

NEW YORK CITY

The Polish Information Center in New York City is the semi-official organization under the control of the Polish government in exile and puts out material favorable to Poland.

The lead dealing with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Its very name does not indicate that it is in any way subversive. The lead with reference to St. Joseph's Home does not appear pertinent since [redacted]

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Kramer

Mr. McGuire

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

CLEVELAND

It is not believed that the lead dealing with inquiries concerning [redacted] should be initiated at this time, since [redacted]

MAILED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/29/83 BY SP-8  
#245238



SAC, Pittsburgh

-2-

The field offices receiving copies of this letter, wherever possible, should submit information already in their files concerning the individuals mentioned in undeveloped leads for that office, and should only conduct such additional investigation as would seem directly logical and pertinent.

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

CC: New York City  
Philadelphia  
Kansas City  
Boston  
Los Angeles  
Miami  
Springfield  
San Diego  
Cleveland  
Omaha  
Milwaukee  
Huntington  
Chicago  
Washington  
Des Moines

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO

FILE NO. 100-255

REPORT MADE AT <b>BIRMINGHAM, ALA.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10-1-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8-3-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>
TITLE <b>0 AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <b>[REDACTED]</b> furnished no additional information of value.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-22-90 BY SP2001/CAL</p>			
<p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent <b>[REDACTED]</b> Birmingham, 5-27-42.</p> <p>DETAILS: <b>[REDACTED]</b>, was contacted and he advised that his office is presently located at <b>[REDACTED]</b>. He stated that approximately one year ago he had moved out of the <b>[REDACTED]</b> inasmuch as the space was being rented to another party, and that while looking for space, he discussed the matter with <b>[REDACTED]</b> advised him that there was space available in his building, which was located at <b>[REDACTED]</b> and that if he desired, he could use his, <b>[REDACTED]</b>.</p> <p>He advised that he had known <b>[REDACTED]</b> in that both were affiliated with <b>[REDACTED]</b> while the office arrangement was in effect <b>[REDACTED]</b> would occasionally ask <b>[REDACTED]</b> to answer his telephone, and about this time <b>[REDACTED]</b> became interested in the America First Committee. He advised of the newspaper article which is set out in reference report and state that he had caused a retraction of this to be made.</p> <p>He was definitely of the opinion that the America First Committee was no longer in existence in the Birmingham area, and stated that it had very little success while in existence. <b>[REDACTED]</b> definitely recalled that <b>[REDACTED]</b> had received a communication from the main headquarters of the America First Committee, advising him that on the instant the United States declared war that he was to close up his office and cease all activities in connection with the <b>[REDACTED]</b>.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <b>[REDACTED]</b>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Chicago 2 Birmingham		<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">COPY</div> <div style="text-align: center;">100-4712-465</div> <div style="text-align: center;">OCT 8 - 1942</div> <div style="text-align: right;">RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em;">b7c</div>	

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b7c  
b7D  
America First Committee. This instruction was followed by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] He did not recall [REDACTED] having received any funds in  
connection with the organization other than the original \$200 received by him  
for the purpose of purchasing office equipment.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

3347

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Chicago, Illinois**

FILE NO. **100-6018**

REPORT MADE AT <b>Cleveland, Ohio</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/9/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/19/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

No indication that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ever connected with subject organization or engaged in questionable activities.

- RUC -

DATE **10-22-90** BY **SP8 BTG/b**

**Reference:**

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated September 1, 1942 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Details:**

AT LORAIN, OHIO

[REDACTED] stated that there never had been an active branch of America First Committee in Lorain, Ohio, nor had the Committee ever received or been given very much publicity in that City.

[REDACTED] recalls one individual in Lorain who had written a letter to the editor of the local newspaper regarding the America First Committee, but to the best of his knowledge that was the only reference ever made to that organization.

[REDACTED] further stated that he was personally acquainted with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that his contacts with [REDACTED]

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED <b>L.V. Boardman</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
5 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 2 - Cleveland		100-4772-466
<b>COPY IN FILE</b>		RECEIVED OCT 12 1942
m1 312		RECORDED & INDEXED

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] was very cooperative and shared the views of [REDACTED] of the need for careful selection of the personnel in Defense industry.

In the opinion of [REDACTED] is a loyal American citizen and that neither he nor the [REDACTED] had ever been involved with the America First Committee or with any activities which might not be considered as American.

[REDACTED] did not know the name of the assistant to [REDACTED] but from a license number, [REDACTED] appearing on an automobile in the [REDACTED] garage, it was ascertained [REDACTED] that the registered owner was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] suggested that some inquiry might be made of [REDACTED] and might possibly have information regarding [REDACTED] According to [REDACTED] there was no question about [REDACTED] loyalty as he had served in the Armed Forces of the United States in the first World War and would be apt to become quite violent should anyone question his sympathies from a nationalistic standpoint.

[REDACTED] He knew both [REDACTED] fairly well and both seemed to be "regular individuals." [REDACTED] was also acquainted with many members of [REDACTED] and all of these individuals have expressed real respect and admiration for the [REDACTED] This informant felt that if either or both of these individuals had not always been loyal in their conversations and activities that he surely would have heard of it through some one of his friends in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also stated that quite frequently [REDACTED] spent some time at the [REDACTED] but this is not unusual [REDACTED]

There being no indication that [REDACTED] was ever connected with the America First Committee or that there has ever been any indication that the [REDACTED] has engaged in any activities of an un-American nature, no further investigation is being conducted in this district and the matter is being considered as referred upon completion to the office of origin.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Chicago, Illinois**

FILE NO. **100-1007**

REPORT MADE AT <b>San Diego, California</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10-8-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10-5-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

**GEORGE W. PEEK**, former agricultural economist in ROOSEVELT administration. Isolationist before the war. **[REDACTED]**

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED**

**HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

**XUC**

**DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BPK/L**

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, dated September 1, 1942.

**DETAILS:**

**AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

reflect the following information concerning **GEORGE W. PEEK**; that he was a member of the America First Committee in San Diego, California **[REDACTED]**

In the report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** at San Diego, California, dated May 9, 1942, entitled "AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE", the following information was obtained. **[REDACTED]**

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>[Signature]</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>100-4712-467</b>	RECORDED & INDEXED
3 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 1 - MO 11th 1 - [REDACTED] 1 - [REDACTED] 2 - San Diego		<b>RECEIVED</b> <b>3 OCT 10 1942</b> <b>IN FILE</b>	

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b2D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that GEORGE W. PERK has lived at Rancho Santa Fe, California for approximately 20 years. He is well known as an agricultural economist, having written several books on agriculture and also having been an agricultural economist for a time in the ROOSEVELT administration. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. PERK did not agree with some of the ROOSEVELT farm policies and as a result resigned from the Department of Agriculture.

[REDACTED] also stated that he believed that at one time Mr. PERK was a director of the Import and Export Bank. [REDACTED] further advised that before the present war Mr. PERK was well known as an isolationist. He further stated that to the best of his knowledge he did not know whether he was ever connected with the America First Committee and that he had never received any America First Committee literature through his office.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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FBI/D



3322  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

October 14, 1942

100-9887  
[REDACTED]

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY  
8902

10-22-90  
Statistical

Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED] furnished the following information on October 8, 1942, in regard to the whereabouts of certain individuals who have been connected with the above-entitled organization.

He advised that EDWIN S. WEBSTER, Jr., former Secretary, presently held a Government position. His exact whereabouts were not known to informant. Captain GEORGE SMITH is presently reported to be a Major in the United States Army Air Corps, stationed at some Post in Florida. EDWARD BLISS, former National Director, is also reported to be in the Air Corps in Florida. Mrs. FAIRBANKS is campaigning for Senator BROOKS in Illinois and DOUGLAS GREGORY, head of the Speaker's Bureau in New York City, is on the stage. He is a member of the Actor's Equity and is reported to be in New York City.

Informant also furnished four carbon copies of a report of an interview had with [REDACTED]

Very truly yours, RECORDED

P. E. FOXWORTH  
Assistant Director



Enclosures 52

COPY IN FILE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____
Files	_____

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FBI/DO.

3321

Oct 9. 1942

Honorable Herbert Hoover

Dear Sir I read an article in the confidential Detective on the American First Committee about who constituted and who made up its rank-and-file membership and what its sources of income were. One Preacher of the full Gospel church traveled from one Tabernacle to another telling the people what a mess the President were getting the Country in, and telling what good Lindberg and Senator Wheeler could do for the U. S. A. it was the most disgusting talk I ever heard when he was here and I know some member of this domination have listed the President as the beast that the Bible speak of. Winrod the big Full Gospel preacher keep in touch with the members here.

The Preacher who came here is named Nam he is a nation known Evangelist

b7c

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DATE 02-20-01 BY SP8/ALC

100-4712-469

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RECORDED 100-4712-469

October 27, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP9BTS/C

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication of recent date.

It was indeed kind of you to bring this information to my attention, and your courtesy and interest in so doing are sincerely appreciated. Should you obtain any further information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 478 Federal Building, San Antonio, Texas.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc San Antonio with copies of incoming.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATION SECTION  
2  
P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

52 NOV 2 1942  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **#100-515**

REPORT MADE AT <b>Sioux Falls, S. Dak.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/15/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/24, 25/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE IN THE SIOUX FALLS FIELD DIVISION</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

No information obtained that the "Staats-Anzeiger", German language newspaper in Bismarck, N. Dak., is connected with the America First Committee in any underground activities.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** made at **Sioux Falls, South Dakota** dated **7/21/42.**

**DETAILS:**

**AT BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA:**

**[REDACTED]** advised that they had, for several years past, kept rather close track of the activities of various organizations in Bismarck, and further that to their knowledge the America First Committee had never, at any time, had a committee in Bismarck.

**[REDACTED]** advised that he was able to read German and that he had read the "Staats-Anzeiger," German language newspaper in Bismarck on numerous occasions and that he had never noticed where the paper had solicited members for the America First Committee in Bismarck. He advised, however, that as he remembered, the "Staats-Anzeiger" did publish news items about the America First Committee and its activities during 1941, but that it did not publish anything more than would appear in any other newspaper in that part of the country.

**[REDACTED]** He advised he had never noticed anything in the paper concerning the activities

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COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 3 Bureau 2 Chicago 2 Sioux Falls	<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>100-4712-470</b>  <b>9 OCT 17 1942</b> </div>
	RECORDED & INDEXED <b>EX-40</b> <b>b7c</b>

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between the America First Committee and the "Staats-Anzeiger." He concluded, however, by stating he could not read, write or speak German and that he was unable to advise as to any activities engaged in on the part of the editorial or managerial staffs of the newspaper. b7c b7d

[REDACTED] that he could write, read and speak German fluently and that he read every issue of the newspaper. He stated that he had never noticed any activities on the part of the newspaper or its managerial staff to be affiliated with the America First Committee and that he had never heard anyone speak of soliciting subscriptions. He advised, however, that the managerial personnel of the "Staats-Anzeiger" were, in his opinion, all loyal Americans but were definitely non-interventionists and would be the type of persons who would have joined the America First Committee in the first part of 1941.

It should be noted that FRANK BRANDT, former owner of the newspaper, died on June 15, 1942. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] It was ascertained that the deceased Mr. BRANDT was sympathetic to the German cause prior to Pearl Harbor. [REDACTED]

There being no further undeveloped leads in the Sioux Falls Field Division, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin. However, in the event any information is developed in the future regarding the underground activities of the America First Committee, in this Field Division, the case will be vigorously investigated and reports submitted.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. 100-2293

REPORT MADE AT <b>INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10-14-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8, 24, 27, 30; 9-3, 8-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Investigation discloses America First Committees at South Bend and Elkhart, Indiana dissolved December 1941 and have not been active since. America First Committee at Gary, Indiana had approximately 500 members and was headed by **KENNETH ROUB**, practicing attorney. Subject organization both at Gary and Hammond inactive since the war. There is no record of any corporation of subject organization in the State of Indiana, according to records of the secretary of state. **[REDACTED]** has no further information concerning subject organization at Indianapolis, Indiana.

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/31/84 BY SP8/K

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]**, dated July 27, 1942 at Indianapolis, Indiana.

**DETAILS:**

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent **[REDACTED]**

**AT SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.**

On August 24, 1942, **[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]** advised that shortly after December 7, 1941 the national committee desired all local chapters to indicate whether or not the committee should dissolve or should continue their activity.

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COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 3 - Indianapolis		<div style="text-align: center;">100-47124-1477</div> <div style="text-align: center;">22 OCT 17 1942</div> <div style="text-align: right;">RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</div>

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and the decision of the national committee would be guided by the majority vote of all the local committees. [redacted] stated that the South Bend Committee voted to continue activity but was guided by and accepted the will of the majority which had voted to discontinue and consequently the South Bend Committee dissolved shortly after December 7, 1941. This committee has not been active since. [redacted] could furnish no information relative to conditions in Elkhart, Indiana.

b2  
b7D  
AT ELKHART, INDIANA.

On August 27, 1942, [redacted] advised that the America First Committee had been organized and fostered by ED MORGENSEN, HERMAN VOGIS and OTTO EDWARDS, but that it had never flourished and was not very successful. It is not active at the present time and is believed to have been dissolved sometime in December, 1941.

AT GARY AND HAMMOND, INDIANA.

The following investigation was conducted by Sp

b7C Agent [redacted]

b7C  
b7D [redacted] was interviewed on August 28, 1942 at which time he advised that the America First Committee had disbanded and ceased operations at Gary upon the Japan attack on Pearl Harbor and that it is his opinion that there has been no activity among the members since that date.

[redacted] informed that KENNETH RAUB, attorney, was chairman of the Gary Unit of the America First Committee and that RAUB has recently enlisted in the United States Army. He advised that GILBERT LANE was secretary of the Gary Unit. He informed that there were approximately five hundred members of the chapter at Gary, Indiana; that the leaders in Unit were in his opinion OTTO REISING, GILBERT LANE, VICTOR COONRAD, and Mrs. JOSEPH E. BALDWIN. He stated that these four were instrumental in organizing the America First Committee at Gary; that after a few meetings, an election was held at which time RAUB was made chairman; LANE, secretary; COONRAD, treasurer; REISING, publicity man; and Mrs. BALDWIN, vice-chairman.

[redacted]

[redacted]

On August 30, 1942, [redacted]



[redacted] advised that the America First Committee ceased its activities at Gary, Indiana immediately upon the attack on Pearl Harbor. He stated that he attended some meetings of the America First Committee, but that it was his opinion that the activities were not influenced by persons with Nazi sympathies, but that the organization was composed of good substantial citizens who were simply opposed to the war.

[redacted] was also questioned concerning Nazi influence in the Gary Unit and stated that even though he thought [redacted] might be a sympathizer with the Fascists, he has no proof of this.

With reference to the Unit at Hammond, PAUL T. MCCAIN, [redacted], was the leader of the Hammond Chapter of the America First Committee there up until about three weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. At this time, he resigned and was succeeded by JOHN J. MULLIGAN, [redacted]

b7c  
b2D  
[redacted] advised on September 28, 1942, that there were between 75 and 125 members of the Hammond Unit and that the East Chicago citizens attended the meetings of the Units at Hammond and Gary, but did not have a unit of their own. He stated that VERNON C. ANDERSON was secretary of the Unit at Hammond, Indiana.

[redacted] stated that he is unable to name any German group or German individual who was associated with the Hammond Unit of the America First Committee. He stated that he definitely knows that the activities of the Hammond Unit of the America First Committee ceased upon the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

[redacted] were all contacted on September 1, 1942, but none of them had any information concerning any present activities on the part of the America First Committee.

#### AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

The writer personally examined the records of the secretary of Indiana at the Indiana State House, Indianapolis, Indiana, and ascertained there was no record of the incorporation of the America First Committee in Indiana either as a pecuniary or non-profit corporation. Moreover, there was no authority to do business in Indiana on the part of the America First Committee used as a foreign corporation.

b2  
b7D

[REDACTED] advised that he had no further information in addition to that which has already been reported in the report of reference. [REDACTED] was quite positive that there has been no activity on the part of the America First Committee in Indianapolis.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION

At Evansville, Indiana.

\* Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

At New Albany, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

At Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Will conduct appropriate investigation to ascertain if the America First Committee is engaging in any present activities.

- PENDING -

XXXXXX  
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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7304

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP3BCL

September 28, 1942

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: J. MUMFORD Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
Internal Security

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to telephone call of [redacted]  
[redacted] of the Bureau on September 28, 1942, requesting a photo-  
static copy of a list [redacted]

as mentioned in reference report of Special Agent [redacted]  
made at Chicago, dated May 29, 1942, on page 6. b7C b7D b7E

There is being transmitted herewith one photo-  
static copy of this list [redacted]  
By my letter dated June 4, 1942, one photostatic copy of the above  
mentioned list [redacted] and mem-  
bers of the America First Committee who were found to be also mem-  
bers of the German American National Alliance was forwarded to the  
Bureau b2 b7C

*Enc - Detailed  
summary to  
Ladd dated 10/16/42*  
AMASD  
[redacted]

Very truly yours,

*A. H. Johnson*  
A. H. JOHNSON  
Special Agent in Charge  
ENCLOSURE

100-668

RECORDED

100-4712-47



RECEIVED

19 OCT 20 1942  
Ladd  
10/16/42

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E.A. Tamm\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy\_\_\_\_

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

October 16, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY (G)

Mr. Samuel Klaus, Treasury Department, in discussing other matters with me, expressed an interest in information that the Bureau might possess regarding records of the America First Committee, and particularly [REDACTED]

A review of the Bureau file reflects that the Chicago Field Office, through a confidential source, had secured [REDACTED]

In accordance with your instructions a photostatic copy of the [REDACTED] delivered to Mr. Samuel Klaus by his own messenger on September 30, 1942. This copy had all identifying marks linking it with the Bureau obliterated therefrom. It will also be noted that an additional copy of this list is contained in file #100-4712-411.

ACTION: No further action is necessary.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

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DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJS/KAL

RECORDED

100-4712-47	
F	B
19	OCT 20 1942



52 OCT 31 1942

Des Moines, Iowa  
October 22, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10-22-90 BY SP9BTK/L

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

Your attention is directed to the report of Special Agent  
[redacted] on the above captioned matter at Des Moines, Iowa,  
dated 9/19/42.

On page two, paragraph one, line nine, the following quotation  
is set forth: "Since December 7, [redacted] has become a red  
hot foot for the Americans."

This quotation should read "Since December 7,  
[redacted] has become a red hot Fourth of July American."

Very truly yours,

J. L. Dalton  
J. L. DALTON  
Special Agent in Charge



Chicago  
100-1395

IN FILE

EX-41

b7c



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Case originated at: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

File No. 100-3325

Report made at: SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.	Date made: 10/20/42	Period made for: 9/7,16,17/42	Report made by: [redacted] (A) b7c
--	------------------------	----------------------------------	--

Title: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
 Character of Case: INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BTD/col

SYNOPSIS: No indication of any organized activities on the part of the former AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in the San Francisco Bay Area at the present time.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 5/26/42 at San Francisco.

DETAILS: [redacted] were recontacted and were unable to furnish the writer with any information concerning any activities on the part of the former AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE.

[redacted] advised that since December, 1941 the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE disbanded and to his knowledge there have been no meetings since that time.

[redacted] was contacted and she stated that a friend of hers, [redacted] told her that the local chapters of AMERICA FIRST

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R-116

Approved & Forwarded <i>N.J. [signature]</i> Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in this space RECORDED & INDEXED OCT 30 1942 b7c
⑤ Bureau 3 Chicago 2 ONI, San Francisco 1 G-2, San Francisco 2 San Francisco NOV 20 1942 271	

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b7c  
b7D

FIRST had been dissolved, and that all funds had been turned over to the American Red Cross. [REDACTED] was formerly very active in the organization and told [REDACTED] that the AMERICA FIRST is dead in San Francisco, at least for the time being.

Informant also furnished a newspaper clipping which was taken from the "People's World", the Communist newspaper, issue of June 23, 1942, which reported under a New York date line of June 22 that a HORACE J. HAASE was attempting to lead a revival of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE committed to a negotiated peace with Hitler. Mr. HAASE has offices at 1165 Broadway, Room 203, New York City, and was supposed to have been one of the principal speakers for the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE's Bureau at Brooklyn, New York.

The "People's World" claimed that a letter had been sent out in connection with the organization of this new group formed by HAASE headed "To My Friends Who Were Formerly Members of AMERICA FIRST", suggesting that everyone attending his meetings write in and make suggestions for local meetings of friends in their homes, offices, or other places.

b7c

On September 17, 1942 the writer contacted [REDACTED] San Francisco, who was formerly very active in the North Beach Chapter of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. In May of 1942 the writer requested [REDACTED] to inquire around among her friends in order to determine whether there were any meetings of any former members of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. [REDACTED] stated that she had talked to several of the people she was formerly associated with in the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, and as far as she could ascertain none of the former groups had attempted to meet since the meeting which was held on December 10, 1941, at which time it was decided on to discontinue the organization as it would serve no purpose in the future.

This case is being closed and will be opened in the event it is determined that there are any activities of an organized nature by the members of the former AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case Originated **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

File No.

100-1789

Report Made At

HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

Date Made

11/6/42

Period Date

10/24/25, 26/42

Report Made By

Title

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

Character of Case

INTERNAL SECURITY - G

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BJJ/ccl

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Information furnished at Clarksburg, W. Va., to effect that [redacted] is one of a group of leaders promoting separate organizations throughout country which are anti-Semitic, anti-Masonic and anti-Administration, and which organizations will eventually be consolidated into one nation-wide organization. [redacted] Clarksburg, W. Va., is said to have been in contact with [redacted] of New York City, who works with [redacted] and with [redacted] Mendota, Ill., who is also in contact with [redacted] although no indication that [redacted] in direct communication with [redacted]

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [redacted], dated 9-1-42, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

DETAILS:

AT CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA

[redacted] furnishes information that [redacted] who is known to associates as [redacted] is one of a

Approved & Forwarded: [signature]

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- 2 - Pittsburgh
- 2 - New York
- 2 - Cleveland
- 1 - Newark, (info)
- 1 - Los Angeles (info)
- 3 - Huntington

1 NOV 1942

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100-1789

number of persons who are interested in promoting organizations throughout the country based on anti-Semitism, anti-Masonry and anti-Administration.

[redacted] advises that information she has received relative to the activities of [redacted] has come to her through contacts with [redacted] who is known to have been recently interested in distributing propaganda of an anti-Semitic nature, and other literature in which President Roosevelt is described as a Jew who deliberately planned the present war so that the Jewish race might gain control of the world.

b2  
b7C  
b7D  
[redacted] states the general plan of organization, as promoted by [redacted] is for each locality in the country to set up its own individual organization, giving it such name as is deemed appropriate, because such an apparent separation of organizations will not draw the general attention of the Nation to such an extent as would a single large organization. [redacted] further states that it is planned that at an appropriate time all the single organizations will be consolidated into one national organization and will unite for action, such action to be directed toward evicting every Jew and Mason who holds any public office of any kind.

With relation to the connection of [redacted] and instant organization, [redacted] states that she does not know that [redacted] has ever been in direct communication with [redacted] but that she has often heard [redacted] state that [redacted] works with [redacted] who claims to be interested in an organization known as the "DEFENDERS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES", and who resides in New York City. [redacted] states that to date all efforts to establish a going organization in Clarksburg, West Virginia, have not been successful and that [redacted] has in the past two months been inactive in attempting to promote such an organization. She states, however, that [redacted] has told her that she is only waiting for the proper time to continue her activities.

When questioned as to other so-called leaders with whom [redacted] works in organizing described groups, [redacted] furnished the following names as those known to her:

[redacted] who is active in an organization called, "UNITED MOTHERS OF AMERICA", at Cleveland, Ohio; [redacted] who resides at Mendota, Illinois; [redacted] Pasadena, California.

From a highly confidential source it was ascertained that the following letter was written to [redacted], from [redacted]

100-1789

Newark, N. J.  
March 15, 1942

I will send you a copy of an appeal in the near future.  
Give us all the support that you can.

It is to be pointed out that the above letter was directed to [redacted] from [redacted] confirming information furnished by [redacted] that [redacted] and [redacted] are engaged in activities which, though they are carried out in organizations of separate names, have a common purpose.

b2  
b7D [redacted] stated that several months ago, when [redacted] was more active, she conducted all her dealings directly with [redacted]. It is to be noted that the writer personally observed [redacted] visiting at the home of [redacted] during the past summer. Information relative to the activities of [redacted] who was also associated with them, and who is known to have distributed some literature provided by WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY, has been set out in reports in the three files relative to these individuals.

b2  
b7D [redacted] advised that she recalls the following organizations as those which are a part of the general plan of [redacted] that is, organizations which will be included in an eventual consolidation:

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
CRUSADING MOTHERS OF AMERICA  
CITIZENS' NO FOREIGN WAR COALITION  
UNITED MOTHERS OF AMERICA  
WE, THE MOTHER, MOBILIZE FOR AMERICA  
WE THE MOTHERS UNITED

Inasmuch as the New York Field Division has been designated as the office of origin in the case entitled, [redacted] with aliases, INTERNAL SECURITY, no leads are being set out for that office in instant case. It is called to the attention of the Chicago and Pittsburgh Field Divisions that reports emanating from New York in the above entitled case should contain information pertinent to subject organization, especially with relation to the activities of [redacted]

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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## Section 552

## Section 552a

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-6862**

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D. C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>ALL 10-17-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10-17-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>
TITLE <b>THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

[REDACTED] advised that he has not been associated with the America First Committee since the middle of 1941. He stated that he had only given two speeches for the Committee, one in St. Louis and one in Washington, D. C. He stated further that the America First Committee definitely discontinued operations on December 11, 1941 and that he has had no information reflecting subsequent activity.

R.U.C.

**REFERENCES:**

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 25, 1942 at Philadelphia, Pa.  
Letter from Washington Field Division dated June 24, 1942 to the Bureau.

**DETAILS:**

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED] advised upon interview that his association with the America First Committee had been very brief. He stated that he did not approve of the aims of the America First Committee but that he went along with the group because it had the same final goal as that of his organization, namely, keeping the United States out of war. He stated

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>S. K. McRae</b>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<b>58 DEC 1 1942</b> 5-Bureau 2-Chicago 1-New York <b>COPY IN FILE</b>	<b>100-46712-476</b> <b>NOV 17 1942</b> <b>RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</b>

3271  
that he is a pacifist and that his record [REDACTED] will verify this statement. He advised that the America First Committee advocated an impregnable defense line for the United States but that he, [REDACTED] and as a pacifist could not support this idea.

b7c  
b7D  
He stated that he had been very well acquainted with General WOOD, the nominal leader of the Committee and that his acquaintanceship among the national officers and leaders of the Committee had been very widespread. He advised that he had made two speeches for the Committee, one in Washington, D. C. late in 1940 and one in St. Louis, Missouri in April, 1941. He advised that the audiences that composed these meetings were somewhat different from those which he usually addressed. He pointed out in this regard that naturally the Committee would attract to it some elements which were not conducive to the better welfare of this country.

[REDACTED] stated further that because of his friendship with some of the leaders of the Committee that he knows definitely the America First organization was closed down for all time, on December 11, 1941. He stated that on that date an all-day meeting was held in Chicago where a heated discussion was held whether to continue with the activities of the organization. He pointed out that it was decided to disband and that this move was prompted from sentiments received from Senators WHEATLER and NYE wherein the organization was advised that this move would be the better policy. [REDACTED] further stated that there is no activity in Washington, D. C. at the present time by this organization as far as he knows, and there is none whatsoever on a national basis.

In view of the fact that there is no further investigation apparent in Washington, D. C. and that the America First Committee has disbanded both locally and nationally, no further inquiry is contemplated and this matter is being referred upon completion to the Office of Origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN



7-270  
b7c  
[REDACTED]  
Nov. 19, 1942

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,  
F.B.I.,  
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-22-90 BY SP8BTJ/cal

Dear Sir:

In their recent book, SABOTAGE: THE SECRET WAR AGAINST AMERICA, the authors, Michael Sayers and Albert Kuhn, state that every member of the America First Committee is tied up with the Axis Fifth Column, is an Axis agent and potential saboteur. This is, also, the charge from other sources.

This fills me with alarm. If its millions of members are connected, in any way, with the Axis, why have you done nothing about it? Are you afraid, because of the high position of some of its members, like Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, her brother, Archibald Roosevelt, and various men now active in Congress? The latter should be impeached, if, as charged, they are tied up with the Axis.

Rickenbacker was a member, also, but was forced to resign, I understand, because of Administrative pressure against his company. How can he be trusted, as he is, with secret missions, when he belonged to the committee and resigned against his own desires?

Then there is Lindbergh, called a copperhead, who is working on important war work in Detroit. I am afraid that, if he is an Axis agent, he will, if possible, let Hitler know all that might interest him and commit sabotage whenever feasible.

The public should know just where the America First Committee stands. Only you, and, possibly, the Dies Committee, can force a showdown on that issue. An investigation of a few of the leaders, using the lie detector, would settle matters. If traitors, they should all be sent to Concentration Camps, or some place where they could do no more harm. If found not guilty, it would not mean that they would be smeared less, but people who distrust them would learn the truth.

Perhaps you can tell me if any act of sabotage, or treason, has been traced to the committee.

To me, it is imperative that action should be taken, before the Axis gets all our secrets and sabotage becomes widespread, if the facts are as stated.

Hoping this will move you to a needed investigation, I remain

EX-48 RECORDED  
&  
Very truly yours,

100-4712-477

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RECORDED

100-4312-477

December 19, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 0-23-90 BY SP8 BTJ/CCL

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 19, 1942.

I have noted your comments regarding the book recently published, the content of which you advised has alarmed you. It should be stated that the opinions expressed in the book mentioned are those of the writers. You may be assured that appropriate attention has been given to all information indicating possible sabotage and other activity endangering the security of this nation, which has come to the attention of this Bureau from the source referred to by you and any other sources.

The interest and courtesy that prompted you to communicate with me in this matter are indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Kramer

Mr. McGuire

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington Field Office, 1437 K Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

November 23, 1942

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DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BJJ/CAL

b7c

100-6882

177

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

ADDITIONAL INDEXING  
N169

p2

Dear Sir:

Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
Internal Security - G

For the information of the New York Field Office, the Washington Field Office directed a letter to the Bureau on June 24, 1942, in which information was set forth concerning the background of one [redacted] in Washington, D. C. In order that the New York Field Office may be appropriately advised concerning this individual, the following brief resume of the life of this individual is set forth.

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[redacted]

[redacted]



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EX-26

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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FBI/DOJ

Director  
AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
November 23, 1942  
[REDACTED] 100-6882

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D

The Bureau, by letter dated July 21, 1942, entitled as above, advised that there was no objection to the Washington Field Office's interviewing [REDACTED] regarding the America First Committee and obtaining any other information believed of interest to the Bureau.

Accordingly, an attempt was made to contact [REDACTED] and information was received [REDACTED] that he is presently residing at [REDACTED] Street, New York, New York. His present employment is unknown.

b7c

In view of the fact that inquiry concerning the America First Committee has been discontinued in this area and there is no further basis for contacting [REDACTED] regarding this organization, no request is being made of the New York Field Office to interview [REDACTED] regarding the America First Committee. However, it is suggested that this individual might be of assistance regarding [REDACTED]. Any such contact with [REDACTED] is being left to the discretion of the New York Field Office.

Very truly yours,

*S. K. McKee*  
S. K. McKEE  
Special Agent in Charge

CC New York

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Chicago, Illinois**

FILE NO. **100-1726**

REPORT MADE AT <b>St. Louis, Missouri</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>11-23-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10-26; 11-2, 16, 19, 20-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Informants believe St. Louis Chapter of America First Committee is completely disbanded and that no effort is being made to keep the idea alive here. Several prominent persons were affiliated previously in St. Louis, but are now reported as one hundred per cent for the war effort. No evidence of attempt to organize a chapter of Americans for peace in St. Louis area.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** St. Louis, Missouri, dated 5-28-42. b7c

**DETAILS:**

At St. Louis, Missouri:

On October 26, 1942 **[REDACTED]** was contacted at his office, at which time he advised that he had previously had considerable information concerning the activities of the St. Louis Chapter of the America First Committee. He advised that he had never actually been a member of this organization and that he had not been a supporter of it. He explained that the presence of his name on the list of original sponsors of the local group was entirely without his knowledge and that he certainly never appeared in court as a sponsor of the pro forma decree granting contracts to the local chapter. b2  
b7D

However, this informant, because of business association, is personally acquainted with several leaders of the St. Louis chapter. The informant

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8/STK



7-259

volunteered to contact these local leaders and ascertain discreetly as to whether or not there was any local activity of the America First Committee at the present time.

Later this informant reported that he had contacted JOSEPH FORSHAN and several other former leaders of this organization and they had all assured him that there was absolutely no local activity of the group since a few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

b2  
b7D [redacted] was also contacted and after discreetly consulting his sources of information advised that he is certain that the St. Louis Chapter of the America First Committee is no longer in existence.

Both of the above named informants reported that from their personal acquaintanceship with the former prominent persons in St. Louis who were affiliated with the St. Louis Committee, they are certain that these persons are now one hundred per cent for the war effort and are not in any way advocating that the United States not engage in the present war. Both of the above named informants were also questioned concerning the possibility of the organization in St. Louis of a local chapter of Americans for peace.

b7c Although it has been previously reported that [redacted] also known as [redacted] Missouri, had volunteered to organize a local chapter of the Americans for Peace, there has been no indication that such an organization was ever started.

The reference room of the St. Louis Globe Democrat and the research bureau of the Chamber of Commerce were both checked for the possibility that such an organization had been started. All of this investigation has produced only negative results and it is felt certain that there is no such organization in the St. Louis Area at the present time.

As there does not appear to be any further investigation necessary concerning the disbanded St. Louis Chapter of the America First Committee, no further investigation will be conducted unless added information is received to indicate the necessity.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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7256

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Des Moines, Iowa  
December 5, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-23-90 BY SP8 BJS/col

692

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report in the above captioned matter of Special Agent [redacted], Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, dated September 1, 1942. The lead set out for the Des Moines Field Division is to ascertain the activities of [redacted]. It will be noted that the report of Special Agent [redacted], Des Moines, Iowa, dated September 23, 1942, entitled [redacted] INTERNAL SECURITY - G covers the lead.

The Chicago Field Division is being furnished one of the copies of Agent [redacted] report and the matter is being referred to the office of origin upon completion.

Very truly yours,

J. L. DALTON  
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Chicago (Encl)  
Pittsburgh  
100-3207  
100-1395

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b7c

EX-18

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Chicago

FILE NO. 100-2293

REPORT MADE AT <b>Indianapolis, Indiana</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/9/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/21, 22, 24, 25, 11/24/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BJS/CAL</b></p> <p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Investigation at Evansville, New Albany, and Jeffersonville, Indiana discloses that although some persons were reported to have been interested in the Committee previous to the declaration of war, there is not at present nor has there in the past existed any organized America First Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-RUC-</p> <p><b>REFERENCE:</b></p> <p>Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 27, 1942 at Indianapolis, Indiana.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <p><u>AT EVANSVILLE, INDIANA</u></p> <p>The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] stated that to their knowledge there was no previous or present existence of the America First Committee.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. M. Lopez</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Chicago 3 Indianapolis		<div style="text-align: center;">100-4712-481</div> <div style="text-align: center;">6 DEC 10 1942</div>	
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3252  
or a body affiliated with such a group in Evansville, Indiana. b2 b7D b7C

On October 22, 1942 [redacted] stated that about eighteen months previous [redacted] had been talking the doctrine of the America First Committee and had some literature of that organization. Informant stated, however, that he was positive that there is no America First organization in Evansville at the present time to his knowledge.

[redacted] b7C b7D  
Evansville, Indiana stated that it was his opinion that the America First group had a couple of organization meetings in Evansville eighteen months or two years ago but that no group was at present active and could furnish no further information concerning this matter.

According to [redacted] b7C  
[redacted] there was several months ago a move on foot in Evansville to form a unit of the America First Committee but that such movement never got under way. In addition, inquiries were made by Special Agent [redacted] of the following individuals relative to the America First Committee. However, none of these individuals was cognizant of any existence of the America First Committee:

[redacted] b7C b7D

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Jeffersonville, Indiana: b7C

On October 24, 1942 the following individuals were interviewed, namely, [redacted] b7C b7D

Each of the above individuals related that according to his knowledge there is not at present nor was there in the past any America First Committee active in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

AT NEW ALBANY, INDIANA

On October 22, 1942 [redacted]  
[redacted] were interviewed and each of these individuals related that to their knowledge there was not presently in existence nor was there in the past an active body of the America-First

7253  
Committee of New Albany.

On October 22, [REDACTED] United States District Court, New Albany advised that he had heard approximately two years ago that an individual in New Albany had been somewhat interested in the movement of the America First Committee and the writer advised of the source from which information could be obtained in this respect. b7c

On October 22, 1942 [REDACTED] related that previous to the declaration of war between the United States and the Axis powers, he had received a letter from the headquarters of the America First Committee in Chicago, Illinois and in reply thereto had forwarded to that committee the sum of \$1.00 for certain literature. The informant stated that he has at all times been interested in the preservation of peace if such were plausible, but upon the development of subsequent information he was able to understand more clearly the issues and became no longer interested in such a movement. This informant related that he was certain that no organized America First Committee was ever present in New Albany and that, in fact, at the time of the receipt of the literature from Chicago he made inquiries as to whether there were any local groups with whom further contact could be had and that inquiries and discussions with his friends failed to develop any organized group of individuals who had even become initially interested in the America First Committee. b2 b7D

The informant related that he has had no correspondence with the Committee nor any group representing it under another name since considerable time before the declaration of war and that he was positive that there were no longer any individuals in New Albany in any connected with the America First Committee or any organization which may have followed upon its dissolution.

It is to be noted that inquiry made of the above informant and from the persons previously interviewed indicated the informant to be a reliable, intelligent, and thoroughly patriotic life resident of the community concerning whom no derogatory information of any nature had ever been reported.

Since there is no further investigation to be conducted in this Field Division, this matter is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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ADDRESSEE REPLY TO  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND REFER TO  
SERIALS AND NUMBER

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b2

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 16, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Files	

In response to our request of the United States Attorney at Chicago he has informed us that the following is a list of the organizations whose records are in the possession of that office as a result of action taken by the Grand Jury empaneled in that district. He informs us that some of these records were obtained by subpoena and others were turned over voluntarily to the Grand Jury.

b3  
Rule 6e,  
FRCP

Wentworth

Chicago

11/12



BUY  
UNITED  
STATES  
SAVINGS  
BONDS  
AND STAMPS

100-4712-

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Let Chicago  
11/12



b3  
Rule 6e,  
FRCP

The United States Attorney informs us that officials in the above organizations have testified before the Grand Jury relative to the history and functions of the groups they represent. He also has informed us that the records in some instances are by no means complete.

*Notes written to [illegible]*

The above records and the material developed by the United States Attorney are available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for examination and reporting. It is requested that the material pertaining to the [illegible] and the [illegible] be given special attention and be reported at the earliest date possible, and that the other material be reported in due course.

Respectfully,

*Wendell Berge*

WENDELL BERGE,  
Assistant Attorney General.

*189*

7249

December 1, 1942

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100-4712-482

SAC, Chicago

EX-23

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DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BVC

b7c

Dear Sir:

There are attached hereto copies of a memorandum dated October 16, 1942, received by the Bureau from the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. It will be noted that there are thirty-five organizations mentioned

b3

The Criminal Division is desirous that the information secured by the grand jury with reference to the organizations mentioned therein be examined and the pertinent portions thereof included in an investigative report on each group.

In view of the specific interest in the review of the records pertaining to the German-American Bund and the German-American Vocational League, Incorporated, separate communications were addressed to you under date of November 2, 1942, relative to these groups. I would like to point out at this time that the records of the German-American Business League, the Haus Vaterland, Incorporated, and the Teutonia Publishing Company, probably should most logically be considered in connection with the case entitled "German-American Bund, Voorhis Act." This matter, however, is being left to your discretion as there may be a question of office administration involved.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease

Sufficient copies of this letter and enclosures are being supplied to you so that a record may be made in the file of each organization mentioned in the Criminal Division, and it is my desire that you make every effort to comply with the request of the Criminal Division without any undue delay.

*b3 cited in conjunction with Rule 6e, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure*  
Yours truly,  
J. E. Hoover

COMM. STAMPED  
ON ORIGINAL  
Enclosures

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



7247

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Buffalo, New York

November 23, 1942

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Att: Technical Laboratory.

We are transmitting under separate  
cover one 100 foot reel of thirty-five millimeter  
film of exposures taken [REDACTED]

b7D

It is recommended that these photographs  
be developed and that one 8 x 10 copy of each be sub-  
mitted for the files of the Buffalo Field Division.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BDC/CL

Very truly yours,

*K. M. Piper*  
K. M. PIPER,  
Special Agent in Charge.

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b7c

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Date: December 21, 1942

To: SAC, Buffalo

RECORDED

100-4712-483

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BJK/col

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: AMERICAN FIRST COMMITTEE

Reference is made to your letter to the Bureau dated November 23, 1942, transmitting one reel of film for developing and printing.

In accordance with your request, the film was developed and one enlarged photographic print of each exposure, and the developed negatives are being forwarded to your office under separate registered cover.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 6

★ DEC 22 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

60 JAN 23 1943

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI  
RECEIVED READING ROOM

JAN 23 1943

JAN 23 1943

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

NY FILE NO. **100-8887**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/28/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/23, 28, 18/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>
TITLE <b>0 AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Informant's reports indicate NYC Chapter of AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE has filed petition in Supreme Court, Manhattan, NYC, for legal dissolution, and no apparent efforts being made to hold organization together by former leaders. Reports on present activities and affiliations of former leaders and controlling personnel set forth herein indicate complete dissolution of AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in NYC area.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BTJ/CL

**REFERENCE:** Bureau file 100-4712  
Reports of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 7/11/42 and 5/13/42 at New York City  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 5/29/42 at Chicago, Illinois b7c  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 9/1/42 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**DETAILS:** At New York, New York [REDACTED], upon contact and when questioned concerning any indications that subject organization was being held together in the New York City area by any of the former leaders or controlling personnel who would possibly be in a position to prevent the dissolution of subject organization with a view toward its being put to possible activity in the future, advised that since the few meetings of the organization's former leaders which were held in New York City in January, 1942, and which were reported in

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COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Chicago 1 Pittsburgh 2 New York	<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>100-4712-484</b>  <b>15 DEC 28 1942</b>  <b>RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</b>  <b>1014</b>  <b>N 151</b>  <b>b7c</b>  <b>EX-145</b> </div>

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7232  
NY 100-8087

reference report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 13, 1948, there has been no indication that any such leaders or persons were making any efforts to prolong the life of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in this area. Informant stated that if any such gatherings or secret meetings had been held since the ones reported, news of them would undoubtedly have come to her, and likewise of any other activities or efforts being made to prevent the disintegration of subject organization. She stated that at present the former personnel of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in New York City is almost entirely disorganized, and those who have maintained efforts and activities in the same or similar lines, have affiliated <sup>with</sup> or are working for any number of smaller groups which have been or presently are under investigation by the New York Field Office. The names of various such organizations have previously been set forth in reference reports of the New York Office.

Informant suggested, however, that in some cases, the officers and leaders of the individual chapters in the New York City area had, upon the Declaration of War and the dissolution of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE by its national officers in Chicago, Illinois, copied or retained portions or all of such local unit membership lists for possible use by them with other organizations of a similar nature with which they might affiliate. In this line, informant pointed out that HORACE J. HAASE, chairman of the organization known as Americans for Peace in New York City, and who was formerly chairman of the Speakers' Committee in the Brooklyn, New York, chapter of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, was known by her to possess fairly complete duplicate membership files of such chapter of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, and he has used them in his efforts with his present organization, Americans for Peace. Informant also stated that it has been her observation that very probably

[REDACTED] of subject organization, possesses, at least in part, duplicate membership records of such unit. [REDACTED] is reported as being active now with such organizations as [REDACTED] in New York City. Informant also suggested that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] New York City, and who now is an officer in the organization, [REDACTED] has indicated that she possesses in whole or in part duplicate membership records of the unit with which she was affiliated. Informant also stated that she knew that [REDACTED] who had organized the Post War World Council in New York City had, about the time war was declared, attempted to secure duplicate membership records of the New York AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE from JOHN T. FLYNN, New York Chairman, for use in her new organization, but it was reported that FLYNN had flatly refused to cooperate with her along such lines.

7233  
NY 100-9887

It should be noted that all organizations previously mentioned as springing up following the outbreak of war and the dissolution of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, are, with their officers, presently under investigation by the New York Field Division, in accordance with Bureau instructions.

Agent contacted [REDACTED] for any information in his possession which would indicate continued activities pointed toward keeping subject organization alive. When questions concerning the individual officers and personnel of subject organization who would possibly be in a position to do such, [REDACTED] advised that ROBERT L. BLISS, former director of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, New York City, who was a member of the staff of the newspaper PM, is presently listed as an honorary committee member of the Citizens Defense Committee, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City. Informant had no information concerning the recent or current activities of JOHN T. FLYNN, former chairman of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, New York City; however, he furnished the following background information on FLYNN:

"John T. Flynn is an economist and writer with tremendous drive and output of economic and political literature. He was pro-Roosevelt in 1933, which later turned into a bitter hatred. His 'Country Squire in the White House' was a best seller around election time. He is Irish and anti-British. His associates in , uncensored, 'Our Pacifist Appeasers' and in Scripps-Howard slightly pro-Fascist. He has expressed anti-Jewish sentiments."

b2  
b7D

[REDACTED] further advised that EDWIN S. WEBSTER, JR., former secretary of the New York AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE and generally believed to be its foremost financial backer, was reported in the NEW YORK ENQUIRER of June 1, 1942, as having been appointed Assistant to former Governor ALFRED E. SMITH of New York in the United Service Organization in its campaign to raise funds.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that his sources of information indicated that H. DUDLEY SWIN and AMOS R. E. PINCHOT, both former officers of subject organization in New York City, had given no indication of any desire or efforts to keep subject organization alive since the outbreak of war. Informant advised that SWIN apparently was connected with subject organization as treasurer only as a business proposition, and, since subject organization's dissolution, has severed all relation with its officers and personnel. Informant pointed out, however, that PINCHOT is

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listed as a trustee of the Committee for Constitutional Government which maintains an office in New York City but has its headquarters in Washington, D. C. Informant, however, was unable to furnish any additional information concerning subject organization or PINCHOT'S activities in connection therewith.

Concerning DOUGLAS GREGORY, formerly on the Speakers Committee of subject organization, [redacted] advised that the only activity recently noted on his part was that in support of GEORGE DYSON FRIOUS in the latter's campaign for Congress from the Brooklyn District of New York City. Informant advised that FRIOUS was also a former "America Firster" and had dropped out of the race for Congress prior to the election. b2 b7c

Contact was had with [redacted] New York City, and a resident of [redacted] for any information in his possession which would indicate continued activity on the part of officers or members of subject organization with a view toward keeping it alive as a unit. He advised that, although he had not made a recent investigation of the activities of the leaders of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in New York City, he has observed no further effort being made to prevent the complete dissolution and disintegration of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE as an organization in this area. b7c

On October 6, 1942, agent contacted [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau. When questioned concerning any indication of sustained existence on the part of subject organization or pertinent activities on the part of its controlling personnel, he advised that, although he has not, in recent months, been in contact very much with his contacts, who formerly were officers and members of subject committee, it has been his general observation that the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in New York City is in the general process of disintegration. He has observed that the radical members who would be interested in continuing the activity along isolationist lines seem to have scattered and affiliated themselves with numerous smaller groups and organizations with similar purposes. He stated that he did not believe there was any person or group of persons still in a position to hold subject organization together in the New York City area in the absence of any definite efforts on the part of the national officers of the organization, and he doubted whether such efforts on the part of the former national officers would have much effect at the present time.

The only information concerning the former officers of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in New York City which [redacted] was able to furnish was that he had heard that EDWIN S. WEBSTER, JR. now had a government job and that Captain GEORGE SMITH is now a Major in the Air Corps and is believed to be stationed in Florida; that ROBERT L. BLISS is also in the Air Corps in Florida; and that DOUGLAS GREGORY, former head of the Speakers Committee is now back on the stage in New York City.



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NY 100-9887

At the time of this contact with [REDACTED] he furnished a copy of a report covering an interview he had had on September 29, 1942, [REDACTED] copies of which report have been made available to the Bureau. Portions of such report are quoted as follows:

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[REDACTED]

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b7D

Contact was later made directly with [REDACTED] at which time he affirmed in effect the opinions expressed [REDACTED] as previously set forth in this report. He advised, moreover, that since the outbreak of war and the official dissolution of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, he has generally lost contact with those members and officers who could be said to have been in control of the New York City organization. He stated that he felt sure that if any efforts were being made by such officers or any of the personnel of subject organization, he would have been advised of it or would at least have learned of it through his numerous friends and contacts in the organization. He ventured the opinion that possibly some efforts were made by the national and local officers in the line of throwing political support to certain candidates in the fall elections who expressed or stood for their views and the views of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE; however, he pointed out that

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there was no evidence that any political efforts, such as those which had been made, had been attempted, so far as he knew, to make use of or exploit the members of the committee as it existed prior to the declaration of war. He advised that he had not been contacted since early in the year by any of the former officers or controlling personnel of the organization, and, in his opinion, the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE as an organization is in a state of almost complete disintegration in the New York City area.

It should be noted that under date of July 6, 1942, [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, submitted the following report concerning subject organization to the New York Field Office:

"Newspaper reports indicate that the New York Chapter of subject (AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE) has filed petition in the Supreme Court, Manhattan, for its legal dissolution, since its spokesman stated that its officials wanted to erase the last legal vestige so that no one could claim it was active in any way whatsoever, although actual activity is said to have ceased immediately following December 7. This action follows dissolution of the national AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Illinois on April 22."

Agent contacted [redacted] who advised that no information has come to his attention indicating any intent or effort on the part of those persons who were leaders in the New York AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE to prolong the life of subject organization. With the cooperation of [redacted] a complete review was made of his records which in any way concerned former officers or leading personnel of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in New York City in an effort to determine their present affiliations and activities. The following is a complete report of such as submitted by informant to the New York Office under/ of October 9, 1942:

1. John T. Flynn was in the hospital for stomach ulcers. He is now recuperating.
2. Edwin Webster (as of June 24, 1942) is co-chairman of the Greater New York USO Joint War Appeal. He is circulating a rumor that he has an important job in Washington, believed to be one of the dollar-a-year jobs.
3. Robert Bliss [redacted] He is now training in the Air Corps in Florida.



4. Douglas Gregory is now sporting his America First button (September 10, 1942), talking about isolationism and saying that something must be done about the terrible trend of things. Gregory has been doing a job [REDACTED] He is also making a personal appearance in movie theatres and expects to get back on Broadway next month. b7c

5. Bea Bettinger has planned to move into a Government job in Washington, but received word from her sister-in-law not to come. (September 10, 1942). The report was that her former association with America First would embarrass her brother who is a Commander in the Navy. She is now working for the Jesuit Publishing Company on the periodical, 'America'.

6. Mrs. I. Pierce is working on Youth Employment in New York City. (September 10, 1942).

Mrs. I. Pierce and her husband, Colonel Pierce, are now running the Army Navy Country Club in Washington, D. C. She boasts that she finds it a good chance to spread isolationist propaganda. (October 5, 1942)

7. Captain George Smith is now Major George Smith of the Army.

8. The Brighams, (Ethel, Barbara, and Peggy) are devoting their entire time to the stage. Barbara toys with the idea of possibly working again for her political beliefs after she has made some success of her career on the stage. Right now, however, the Brighams seem to be out of political circulation.

9. Samuel Bettingill is running the Republican Finance Committee.

10. General Hammond has long been operating his plant on war orders and has taken an active Army commission again in the Ordnance Division.

11. Chester Bowles is continuing his advertising business and is as isolationist as ever. [REDACTED] b7c

12. Mrs. Seth Milliken is now active in the Post War World Council.

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13. Mrs. Donald Budd Armstrong is also in the Post War World Council. She puts emphasis on the peace and boasts that three of her friends are in conscientious objector camps. She is also working as a volunteer in a hospital in Scarsdale, New York. [REDACTED] b7c

14. Doris Reed, [REDACTED], is operating as an investment counsel in a brokerage firm. She says that helping America First was very profitable to Edwin Webster, that coincidental to taking an active part in America First, he got a substantial volume of German and Italian security liquidating business for Kidder and Peabody. She says that he is a dollar-a-year man.

15. Amor Pinchot is recovering from an attempted suicide. The family version is that he was afraid he was getting cancer. Mrs. Ruth Pinchot, his wife, says that they are both as strongly isolationist as ever.

16. Greta Palmer (Mrs. Sanford Clark) in addition to her writing for women's magazines is very interested in the current political scene.

17. Mrs. Rose De Luca of Queens is active in the local political campaign for 'Bennett for Governor'.

18. Gregory Mason is writing the story of the political importance of the America First Movement. He says that he is as strongly isolationist as ever and that he is doing some writing which he is confident 'will be useful when this phase of the war is over'.

19. Ernest E. Wheeler, [REDACTED] b7D  
[REDACTED] and is very patriotic and particularly very anti-German. [REDACTED]

20. Wilene Woods, [REDACTED] is now studying Japanese. She says, 'Our position in America First was entirely justified. I am waiting for the turn of the tide.'

Reference is made to the lead set out in the reference report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated September 1, 1942, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in this case, concerning the residence of [REDACTED]

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NY 100-9887

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Bronx, New York, [REDACTED]

Agent contacted [REDACTED] who advised that [REDACTED] is occupied by FRANK PARKER, his elderly sister, Miss LUCINDA PARKER.

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[REDACTED] further advised that Mr. PARKER and his wife have been separated for some years and that Mr. PARKER is a retired United States Army officer, having served in World War I. He is believed to have retired with the commission of Major. He and his family resided at their present address for approximately fifteen years and are very well regarded in the neighborhood.

b7c  
[REDACTED] He described the whole family as people of good character, reputation, and 100 per cent Americans. He advised that Mr. PARKER has been employed by several large firms in the New York area and is an expert in economics, statistics, traffic management, and related fields; however, he was unable to state with whom Mr. PARKER is presently employed. He further advised that Mr. PARKER has been quite active in local politics, being a staunch Republican, but he knows of no organization outside of local political groups with which Mr. PARKER has ever affiliated. Informant feels certain that Mr. PARKER would not affiliate with any group which might be deemed subversive. He stated that he did not know whether or not Mr. PARKER had been a member of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE.

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[REDACTED] was contacted [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and affirmed all the statements made by [REDACTED]. He stated that he understands that Mr. PARKER has done considerable writing, being the author of several books in the field of economics. He knows nothing derogatory about the family and described them as "reputable people and red hot Americans".

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[REDACTED] upon a search of his records, advised that he had no record of FRANK PARKER as having registered from [REDACTED]

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Concerning [REDACTED], the files of the New York Field Office disclosed that [REDACTED] attended a conference in August, 1937, at Kansas City, Missouri, entitled, "The American Christian Conference of the American Nationalist Confederation," a subversive organization which was headed by GEORGE DEATHERAGE. This information is contained in the memorandum entitled, "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES - GENERAL", prepared by the Chicago Field Division, and transmitted to all Field Divisions under date of November 27, 1939, (New York file 61-C-390).

Concerning the Polish Information Center, 151 East 67 Street, New York City, and the connection between it and subject organization, it should be noted that such an organization is the subject of a pending Registration Act case in the New York Field Division. Such investigation is based upon allegations that the publication of the Polish Information Center, namely the "Polish Review" is very similar to the former German Library of Information's publication, "Facts in Review".

It is noted that the Polish Information Center has filed registration statements with the State Department.

In view of the above information concerning the Polish Information Center, no investigation is being conducted on it in connection with this case.

Concerning the Committee for Constitutional Government, the files of the New York Field Division reflect that this organization is incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia, and that its headquarters are situated in the National Press Building, Washington, D. C. This organization also maintains an office at 205 East 42 Street, New York City. The officers of the organization are listed as follows:

SAMUEL B. PETTINGILL, Chairman and President;  
LOUIS J. TABER, Vice-President of Advisory Council;  
REVEREND NORMAN VINCENT PEALE, D.D., Secretary;  
SUMNER GERRARD, Treasurer.

The trustees of the organization are listed as follows:

SAMUEL B. PETTINGILL, Lawyer and Democratic member of Congress from Indiana, 1931-1939  
EDWARD H. MOORE, business man, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
NORMAN VINCENT PEALE, D.D., Minister, New York, New York  
S. S. McCLURE, founder of McCLURE'S magazine, New York, New York  
WILLIAM MacFERRAN, JR., Banker, Topeka, Kansas

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FRANK K. GANNETT, Public Register, New York  
SUMNER GERARD, lawyer and business man, New York, New York  
LOUIS J. TAKER, Master, National Grange, Columbus, Ohio  
AMOS PINCHOT, attorney and publicist, New York, New York  
[REDACTED]

b7c  
There is no additional information concerning the Committee for Constitutional Government, Inc., in the files of the New York Field Office with the exception of an unspecific complaint to the effect that it was believed that this organization was engaged in some sort of subversive activity. This complaint was made by [REDACTED]

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However, the files of the New York Field Division reflect that the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] made at Portland, Oregon, October 21, 1941, in the case [REDACTED]

INTERNAL SECURITY - G,  
REGISTRATION ACT," sets forth a lead to ascertain the identity and position of the Committee for Constitutional Government, Inc., 205 East 42 Street, New York City. In view of the fact that investigation is presently being conducted concerning such lead, no additional investigation is being conducted of this organization in connection with this case.

Concerning the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City, the files of the New York Field Division reflect that as of September 19, 1941, a two-page pamphlet entitled, "Anti-Semitism—One America and One Christian," which condemns the anti-Semitic movements and prejudice, was put out by this organization, from the address, 297 —4th Avenue, New York City (NY file 65-2020-12149).

In a letter to the Bureau dated August 20, 1937, and captioned, "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES - GENERAL", it is stated that the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America joined with the Spanish Child Feeding Reserves of the American Friends Committee, 20 South 12 Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Committee on Militarism in Education in a solicitation of funds for impartial relief for war-stricken children and women in Spain. (NY file 61-507-295 A).

In a letter to the Bureau under date of May 5, 1937, and entitled "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS" (Bureau file 61-7558), there is mentioned a four-page printed leaflet entitled, "The Churches and Military Training in Schools and Colleges", with a sub-title, "Conscience and Compulsory Military Training". This is a statement adopted by the biennial meeting of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America

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at Dayton, Ohio, December 5, 1934. It is, in substance, a plea for the adoption of legislation freeing conscientious objectors from military training in civil educational institutions. The folder was apparently prepared by the Director of International Justice and Good Will of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, (NY file 61-506-18).

b7c The New York files further reflect that in a letter to the Bureau dated September 11, 1940, captioned, [REDACTED] INTERNAL SECURITY, it is stated that St. Joseph's Home, 425 West 44 Street, New York City, is a Catholic home which is operated on a basis similar to that of the Y.W.C.A. (or Y.M.C.A.). In view of this fact, it is felt that any active investigation in this line is not advisable.

Because contacts with informants mentioned in this report have failed to disclose any indication that there are any efforts being made to continue the life of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE as an organization or group in the New York City area, no further active investigation is contemplated, and this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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100-4712-484 in p. 13

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7-225  
 100-4712-485  
 Date: January 14, 1943  
 To: SAC, Pittsburgh

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8 BTJ/LAL

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Subject: American First Committee  
 Internal Security - C

The Bureau is in receipt of your letter of January 8, 1943, which quotes the three versions of a [redacted] message supplied by [redacted] and of the subjects of the above case, to [redacted]. These messages have been designated in the Laboratory as number 13883. b7c b7D

The first message, originally written on December 14, 1942, contains certain words which would not ordinarily be used in a communication of this kind. In a search of code books in the Laboratory which use English words as their code groups reveals the fact that quite a number of these unusual words are listed in the book as having definite meanings. Even such an unusual word as the word "Cavalierly" was found present. Tests showed that, if any one of these books was being used, other groups known only to the correspondents were being employed, as decodes possible from the meanings given in the actual book did not yield good English. Failure to effect a decode makes it impossible to state whether one of these code books was being used or not. The two subsequent messages are lacking in any words which arouse particular suspicion, and are believed to be authentic although they give a great deal of personal views.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of your letter, quoting the messages in question, is being retained in the Laboratory in the event that future study is necessary.  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
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100-4112-486  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 2  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-1800**

REPORT MADE AT <b>PORTLAND, OREGON</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1-8-43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12-4-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE alias Peace Group</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-23-80 BY SP8 BTJ/KLS</b>	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Dissolution of subject organization apparently complete in this area. Peace Group of PAUL COTTON also dissolved. Correspondence, circulars and pamphlets pertaining to America First Committee obtained from [REDACTED] and circular, dated 12-16-41, from headquarters of America First Committee addressed to PAUL COTTON, corroborates dissolution.			
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Portland, Oregon, dated June 5, 1942.			
DETAILS: [REDACTED] Portland, Oregon, provided agent with the bulk of the correspondence, circulars and pamphlets that he had concerning the America First Committee. A perusal of them failed to reveal anything of a pertinent character concerning the activities of the America First Committee. However, they are being retained in instant file for possible future reference.			
Included in that correspondence was a circular from the headquarters of the America First Committee at Chicago, Illinois, dated December 16, 1941, addressed to all chapter chairmen and signed by E. DOUGLAS STUART, JR. This circular was addressed to DR. PAUL COTTON, Post Office Box 92, Portland, Oregon. The circular is not being set forth in detail, it being sufficient to note that it repeated that the National Committee on December 11, 1941 voted to dissolve the America First Committee and all its chapters, clubs, branches and other constituent or affiliated organizations throughout the United States. It went on to state that it was of the utmost importance that the membership lists and other records of their chapters be stored in one place under proper custody for the reasons that they anticipated various kinds of investigations and wanted to maintain their files under proper guardianship lest they fall into the hands of unauthorized persons and used for some ulterior purpose. It stated that at a meeting of the National Committee it was resolved that all the records would be impounded in the personal custody of [REDACTED]			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>R.R. Brunner</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			
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General WOOD. It was requested that all records, including files, books, and membership lists, be shipped to General WOOD at Chicago, Illinois.

[REDACTED] advised that to his knowledge, which he feels is authoritative in view of his previous connection with the America First Committee, the group has failed to exist or function as such.

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D  
DELMORE LESSARD, ex-state chairman of the America First Committee, is well-known to this office and investigation has revealed him to have been active in attendance at a group called the Research Club in Portland, Oregon, which club was organized by HENRY L. BEACH along the lines of the Silver Shirts program. This club has been under continual investigation by this office and its activities have been reported fully. It was discovered that their program paralleled the program of the Silver Shirts as headed by WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY. It is noted that [REDACTED] advised that LESSARD was relieved of his leadership of the America First Committee perhaps for the primary reason that his known anti-Semitism was felt to be an obstacle in the development of the America First Committee's program.

Inasmuch as the activity of instant group has apparently ceased, it is not believed that further inquiry is warranted and instant case is being

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-5606**

REPORT MADE AT  
**NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**

DATE WHEN MADE  
**1/16/43**

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  
**6/8, 22, 12/28/42**

REPORT MADE BY  
**[REDACTED]**

TITLE  
**AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8/SL/CL**

CHARACTER OF CASE

**INTERNAL SECURITY - C**

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject organization presently inactive in New Jersey.

**[REDACTED]**  
set out. Background information concerning

-RUC-

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** made at Newark, New Jersey dated May 30, 1942.

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** made at Chicago, Illinois dated May 29, 1942.

Bureau letter to all Special Agents in Charge dated March 16, 1942.

## DETAILS:

**[REDACTED]** furnished this Field Office with the following information concerning a conversation **[REDACTED]** is being set out as follows, and for brevity **[REDACTED]** and **[REDACTED]** designated **[REDACTED]**. This conversation has already been furnished to the Bureau by letter dated June 15, 1942:

- "A. I came to see you about the letter you wrote me some three weeks ago.  
"B. Yes, I am glad you dropped in and I would like to hear

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

*E. E. Conroy*  
**E. E. Conroy**

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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**JAN 19 1943**

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some more about it.

"A. How did you hear of us?

B. Through a friend.

A. I have here a news letter in two parts. The blue part specifically will explain our stand in the matter of peace vs. war and, or -- by the way, when do you want to see peace brought about?

B. Immediately.

A. That's it. You are the type of person we are interested in-- a person who wants peace without victory. And why do you want peace right away?

B. Because I lived in Europe during the last war and the horror of it impressed me so strongly that I want no part of it.

A. Excellent. The trouble is with most people in this country-- never having experienced war first hand, they do not know the horrors of it.

B. Could you tell me what the newspapers think of this organization?

A. Most of the large newspapers have condemned us. "Life" magazine recently published a mis-statement about us and I am now dickering with them to retract it. There are a number of small newspapers that are definitely our friends, notably "The Dirt Farmer" published in California; "Farmer's Exchange" New Paris, Indiana; "Humanity" Arvada, Colorado; "Forum" Stockton, California; "The Broom" San Diego, California. "The Broom" specifically has been condemned for Jew-baiting.

B. For Jew Baiting?

A. (Smiling archly) You ought to know that.

B. Well I know first hand the disgusting behavior of the Jews both in Russia and Germany and I feel very strongly on the subject.

A. (With an amused smile) That, of course, is your privilege and I'll let you guess at my own opinion in the matter.

B. Do you have many members in New Jersey?

A. We are well fixed in St. Louis, on the West Coast, and in New York. New Jersey, however, is rather quiet. We are now negotiating with a Mr. Palmer of Paterson, New Jersey who has a group that now belongs to a somewhat different organization but is interested in joining ours.

(He then, upon question, announced a Mrs. Amelia DuBois, who lives in a large hotel on the corner of Watchung and Grove in Montclair and who is in her 70's is a militant member of the organization.)

Furthermore, a great many people who delay in joining our organizations are afraid to because they have defense jobs or relatives in the armed forces. Our organization is a good one to belong to because we are not radical in our treatment of the subject. Coughlan has been too radical and



is now out of business. We intend to keep out of jail because nobody can accuse us of such activities. All they can do is to condemn us in geraldity but cannot specifically lay their thumb on any one thing that we might say or print.

B. Well, haven't you been accused of being Hitler's willing or unwilling tools?

A (Here he smiled again in a very superior manner and extracted from his brief case another sheet of yellow paper which he handed to B, pointing out a certain paragraph which was a rather clever piece of sophistry.)

A This is our answer to such a remark.

(The paragraph read approximately as follows or at least conveyed the ensuing idea:

"The fact that peace loving Americans want peace is purely coincidental with the fact that Hitler does not want them to fight. Would you forego something that you want simply to deny Hitler something that he wants -- and furthermore, how do you know what Hitler wants anyway?"

From [REDACTED] it was ascertained that the leaders of the America First Committee in the Paterson and Passaic area were, RUSSELL PALMER, EDWARD WILMS, JOSEPH MENEGUS.

At [REDACTED] it was ascertained that [REDACTED] resided at [REDACTED]; that he is an employee of [REDACTED] in Paterson, New Jersey. He is [REDACTED] years of age, married and is a salesman for [REDACTED]. He formerly resided at [REDACTED] New Jersey, and also at [REDACTED] New Jersey. At one time he was employed as [REDACTED].

It was ascertained that [REDACTED] is a resident of [REDACTED] New Jersey, living at [REDACTED], and is employed by [REDACTED].

The City Directory revealed that [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] New Jersey. He has a next door neighbor who is [REDACTED].

FAZ  
100-8808

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained from [REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D

Age  
Height  
Weight  
Hair  
Eyes  
Complexion  
Features

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b2  
b7D

There is no further evidence of activity by the America First Committee in the State of New Jersey and indications are that it has completely ceased functioning. [REDACTED] who was very active in the organization, advises that it is dead in the State of New Jersey and this case is accordingly being closed.

b7c

It will be re-opened if there are indications that the subject organization becomes active. The lead in the reference report of Special Agent [REDACTED] for this Field Division was covered in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at Newark, New Jersey, May 30, 1942.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information:

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-4712-488 in p. 5

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

7/18  
104-1  
Date: January 22, 1943

To: SAC, Chicago

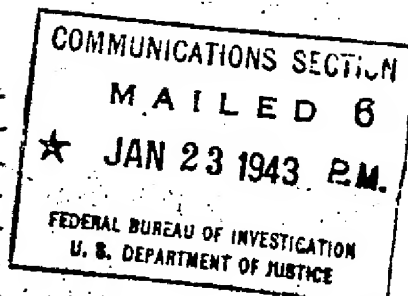
From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Subject: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to my letter to you dated December 1, 1942, concerning the records of some thirty-five organizations which were procured by a grand jury sitting at Chicago, Illinois.

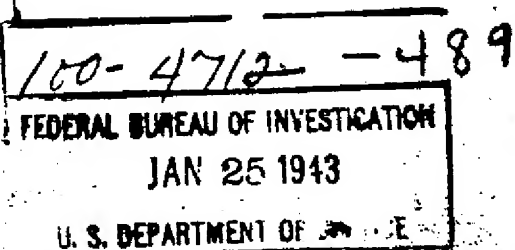
I desire to be advised of the date when I may expect to receive a report incorporating a review of these records.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BJS/c6

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



RECORDED



F 373  
58 FEB 1943

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-315**

REPORT MADE AT <b>BUFFALO, NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/22/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/8, 31, 11/12, 13, 14, 16/42, 1/5, 7/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <i>b7c</i>
SUBJECT <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Local chapter organized in December, 1940. Names of chairman, secretary and steering committee of local chapter set forth. All parties contacted advise purpose of A.F.C. was to keep the U. S. from becoming entangled in European war. Committee financed by contributions and collections taken at meetings. Prominent individuals were guest speakers for local chapter. Last meeting held December 8, 1941, and committee not active since that time. Former chairman and secretary received letters from Americans for Peace relative to organizing a local chapter. However, both replied in the negative.

AGENCY *McC Army*  
BY *[Signature]* reviewed and pertinent parts set forth. Material obtained *b7D*  
- RUC -

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent *[REDACTED]* dated 6/2/42 at Buffalo, New York.  
Report of Special Agent *[REDACTED]* dated 6/15/42 at New York City.

## DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent *[REDACTED]*  
A search of the city and telephone directories of the city of Buffalo revealed that *[REDACTED]* resides at *[REDACTED]*

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED: *[Signature]*  
SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

## COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 5-Bureau
  - 2-Chicago
  - 2-New York
  - 3-Buffalo
- 59 MAR 8 1943**

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<b>100-4712-490</b>	<b>RECORDED</b>
<b>10-23-38</b>	<b>INDEXED</b>
<b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED</b>	
<b>DATE 9-27-83 BY [Signature]</b>	

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[REDACTED] had no information that [REDACTED] had been active either in the America First or any other organization since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

[REDACTED] was interviewed in his office at the [REDACTED] and stated that soon after the fall of France in the spring of 1940 he and his wife believed that America needed an awakening to the dangers of totalitarian power and that the best way for America to protect itself was to aid those others which had subsequently become America's allies in the present conflict. [REDACTED] informed the Writer that he [REDACTED] issued letters to a list of approximately 150 individuals requesting them to organize under this plan.

A meeting was held on July 4, 1940, and a formal organization drawn up under the name of the Niagara Frontier Committee for the defense of America. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] until after the attack on Pearl Harbor, at which time it decided against any more formal meetings but to maintain the organization for use in the future in furthering America's war effort.

During the period of the organization's activity, it came into opposition with the local committee of the America First Committee. [REDACTED] advised that he had personally attended many meetings of the America First Committee presided over by MILLARD C. DORNTGE, the chairman of this group, and on one occasion took issue with Mr. DORNTGE over the issues presented.

The Niagara Frontier Committee for the Defense of America was the local representative of the Committee for the Defense of America by Aiding the Allies headed by WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE.

[REDACTED] informed the Agent that he had never known or heard of MILLARD C. DORNTGE prior to the time that he was elected chairman of the America First Committee. From his observations of DORNTGE during the period he was chairman of the America First Committee, he was of the opinion that he was probably sincere in the cause he sponsored but believed the driving force behind DORNTGE was the opportunity his position presented for appearing in the public eye. The position as chairman of the America First Committee placed him in a position to meet the various prominent speakers of the America First Committee, such as SENATOR WHEELER, who appeared

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under the auspices of the local committee. [redacted] informed that members of his committee had often discussed the motives behind various persons in the America First Committee but never could believe that they were disloyal to the United States.

[redacted] has heard of no activity on the part of DORNTON or his associates since Pearl Harbor but has learned that DORNTON was prominent in the Petroleum Distributors Association in regard to the rubber scrap drive. [redacted] had never heard of any organization known as the Americans for Peace but expressed a willingness to inform this office of any information which came to his attention in this matter. [redacted] was warned of the discretion necessary in making any inquiries.

Among those former members of [redacted] whom he believed might have information concerning any activity of the [redacted] described were [redacted]

[redacted] made available to the Agent a portion of a letterhead of that group which contained the names of the chairman, secretary, and the steering committee of the local chapter.

In looking over the list of prominent members of the America First Committee, he suggested the following persons could give information and whom he believed were loyal citizens and could be trusted:

GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. PEDERSEN was formerly secretary of the America First Committee.

Professor EDWARD F. BARRETT [redacted]

JOSEPH M. BOEHM [redacted]

MRS. WALTER L. LAUTZ, former executive secretary of the America First Committee.

MR. AUSTIN J. ROOPE, [redacted]

Mrs. ARCHIE THOMAS, [redacted]



DR. PAUL CONROY, [REDACTED]

MR. KENNETH BRUCE MACDONALD, [REDACTED]

DR. IRA TREVETT

MR. NEIL M. WILLARD, [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer:

[REDACTED] was contacted by the Agents and advised that his only knowledge he had of MILLARD C. DORNTGE was the fact that he was formerly chairman of the America First Committee. [REDACTED] advised that he did not know DORNTGE prior to that time and could furnish no information concerning either Mr. DORNTGE or the America First Committee. He advised, however, that he had heard of no activities on the part of the America First Committee subsequent to the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. [REDACTED] stated that he had never heard of the American for Peace or of any of the members of the America First Committee having been contacted in this regard. He stated that [REDACTED] had been a member of the America First Committee and felt that he was a loyal and patriotic American and would give whatever assistance he possibly could to the Agents.

He stated, however, that he was of the opinion that Mr. DORNTGE was a loyal American. [REDACTED] also referred the Agents to Mr. GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He is of the opinion that PEDERSEN has a good reputation and believes him to be an honest man. He informed the Agents that PROFESSOR PINGATORE, [REDACTED] had made several speeches before the America First Committee. [REDACTED] could furnish no further information concerning the America First Committee.

[REDACTED] stated that he had expressed his views [REDACTED] in favor of aiding those countries that subsequently became our allies and in so doing had incurred the animosity of the America First Committee, including its chairman, MR. DORNTGE who expressed his dislike for [REDACTED] on numerous occasions. [REDACTED]

informed the Agents that DORNTGE wrote letters to him criticizing his opinion and the principles which he expressed [REDACTED] further stated that he had heard of no activity of the America First Committee since the attack on Pearl Harbor and, in his opinion, there was no activity of this organization for he felt sure had there been any he would have heard about it. He informed that he had never heard of any organization known as the Americans for Peace but should any information concerning this organization come to his attention he would gladly refer same to this office [REDACTED] was warned of the discreetness necessary in conducting any inquiries on this matter and he advised the Agents that they could expect his cooperation and that he was aware of the confidential nature of this inquiry.

The following investigation was conducted by the Writer:

[REDACTED] He informed the Agent that the local chapter of the America First Committee was organized during December of 1940 and that he had been requested to join this group by GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, [REDACTED] He advised the Agent that PEDERSEN had been secretary of the America First Committee for a considerable period of time. [REDACTED] stated that the local chapter of the America First Committee was organized by MILLARD DORNTGE and GILBERT PEDERSEN. He stated that MILLARD DORNTGE at the first meeting of this group was elected temporary chairman and remained as such up until the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. GILBERT J. PEDERSEN was the secretary of this group and remained in that capacity up until October or November, 1941, at which time he resigned. The steering committee, which never got beyond a temporary committee, was composed of PROFESSOR PAUL CONROY, [REDACTED] AUSTIN J. ROCHE, [REDACTED] REVEREND LEONARD BUSHMAN, [REDACTED] and BRUCE MACDONALD.

[REDACTED] informed the Writer that he was unable to state the membership of the America First Committee because he had never handled any of the records of that group. He stated that the America First Committee was financed by contributions and by collections at their meetings. Two large meetings of the America First Committee were held at Kleinhans Music Hall, one during May of 1941 at which time Senator Wheeler was the guest speaker. On this occasion, a collection was taken up to cover the expenses of renting the hall. Another meeting, the exact date unknown, as held at the Kleinhans Music Hall and Senator Nye and John Flynn were the guest speakers. Other than the two large meetings held at Kleinhans Music Hall, the America First Committee held bi-weekly meetings and local members of the committee would speak to the gatherings. The membership

list of the America First Committee. [redacted] believes, is in the possession of MILLARD DORNTGE. [redacted] informed the Agent that he became inactive during the fall of 1941 but that the last meeting of the America First Committee was held December 8, 1941, at which meeting JOHN FLYNN was scheduled to speak. However, at this meeting, the Committee decided against the continuance of this organization and to the best of his knowledge disbanded entirely. [redacted] stated that he has never heard of any organization known as the Americans for Peace and that he has never approached by MILLARD DORNTGE or any of the other America Firsters relative to joining any such group. [redacted] was questioned by the Writer concerning other branches of the local chapter in this district, and he advised he thinks that there was a group organized in Rochester, New York, but that they were only getting started at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

[redacted] informed the Writer that the sole purpose of the America First Committee during the time it was in existence was to keep the United States from becoming entangled in European wars. He stated that at one of the meetings at which Senator WHEELER addressed the committee a group of Socialists distributed handbills but that this group was in no way connected with the America First Committee. [redacted] stated that the America First Committee had always made it plain in all of their correspondence and literature that they had no connection with the Communist or Nazi parties.

[redacted] upon interview [redacted] was a member of the America First Committee. He stated that GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, a local attorney, and MILLARD C. DORNTGE were the organizers of this group. PEDERSEN was elected secretary at the initial meeting of this group and MILLARD C. DORNTGE was elected chairman. A steering committee was appointed which was composed of the following individuals: JOSEPH BOEHM, NEIL WILLARD, EDWARD BARRETT, MILLARD DORNTGE, PAUL CONROY, MRS. WALTER LAUTZ.

[redacted] was not familiar with the actual working of the group and his activities were limited to speeches which he made to the committee. He stated that the membership was approximately 1,000 to 1,200 but that the official membership list was in the possession of either Mrs. LAUTZ or DORNTGE. [redacted] further informed the Agent that DR. MAXWELL became treasurer of the America First Committee about six months before it disbanded. He stated that the America First Committee had not been active subsequent to December 8, 1941, at which time a meeting was held and it was agreed that there were no further necessities for an organization of this type.

He said that he has never been approached by DORNTGE or any of the other members relative to re-organizing the America First Committee

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or any other group of this nature and that he has never heard from the Americans for Peace. He said that in March of 1942, Mr. DORNTGE had told him that he had received a letter from the Americans for Peace but that he had told him it sounded insane to him and he was not going to have anything to do with it. [REDACTED] stated he had read the letter which DORNTGE received and that it advocated a recruited peace and wanted DORNTGE to join the organization. It declared that this war was an aggressive war on our part. [REDACTED] stated that the person who signed the letter was a former chairman of the America First Committee in New York City. In addition to the letter, there was mimeographed material dealing with the Americans for Peace.

[REDACTED] stated that he was not familiar with the activities of the America First Committee. However, he knew that WILLARD DORNTGE was chairman of this group. [REDACTED] informed the Writer that he had never heard of the Americans for Peace and that he felt sure that the America First Committee was inactive at this time and had been since December 8, 1941, at which time they probably announced that they were disbanding.

[REDACTED] named the following individuals as having been active members of the America First Committee:

JOSEPH BOEHM, [REDACTED]

JOHN A. WOLF, [REDACTED]

but has a lot of contacts and should know if the America First Committee is active.

GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, an attorney [REDACTED]

EDWARD F. BARRETT, JR., [REDACTED]

very active and one of the principal speakers at their meetings.

MRS. WALTER LAUTZ, whom he stated was very active in the America First Committee.

AUSTIN J. ROCHE, [REDACTED]

MRS. GERTRUDE HORNER, who was very active and one of the best workers of the A.F.C., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] could furnish no further information concerning the America First Committee.

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[REDACTED] former member of the America First Committee, upon interview advised that he had been a member of the America First Committee during the time this organization was in existence but that to the best of his knowledge the America First Committee had disbanded shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and since that time there had been no further activity. [REDACTED] advised that he felt certain that should there have been any further activity of the America First Committee, he would have been advised of this fact or would have been approached relative to membership in the organization. [REDACTED] informed the Agent that should any information concerning further activities of the America First Committee come to his attention, he would immediately advise this office of these facts.

The following individuals were not contacted by the Writer in view of the fact that [REDACTED] informed the Agent that they were talkative individuals and, inasmuch as this investigation was of a discreet nature, it was not deemed advisable to contact these parties: [REDACTED]

39  
[REDACTED] was con-  
tacted and he advised that he had formerly been connected with the America  
First Committee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A steering committee was organized which was composed of  
EDWARD F. BARRETT, JR., JOSEPH M. BOKEM, DR. PAUL CONROY, MILLARD C. DORNT  
MRS. FRANKLIN K. GURLEY, MRS. WALTER L. LAUTZ, KENNETH BRUCE MACDONALD, DR.  
MAX LT. MAXWELL, GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, AUSTIN J. ROCHE, DR. IRA TREVETT, WIL  
M. WILLARD.

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[REDACTED] stated that the America First Committee, to the best  
of his knowledge, was organized and formed for the purpose of keeping Ameri-  
out of European war. He stated that the members of the America First Com-  
mittee, as far as he knew, were loyal and patriotic Americans. He informed  
the Agent that during April of 1942 he had received a communication from  
the Americans for Peace containing literature concerning this organization.  
The Americans for Peace had requested that he join this organization and  
stated that they were interested in organizing local chapters of the group  
throughout the country. He stated that he had written a letter to the Amer-  
icans for Peace, 1165 Broadway, New York City, declining their request. He  
stated that prior to this time he had never heard of the Americans for Peace  
and this was the first communication he had received from any organization  
of that type. He advised that the last meeting of the America First Com-  
mittee was held at the Statler Hotel on December 8, 1941, at which time  
the Committee decided it was useless to continue in view of the fact that  
the country was at war.

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[REDACTED] the following list of  
individuals corresponded with the local chapter of the America First Com-  
mittee and expressed a desire for membership or contributed financially  
to the support of the local chapters:

W. S. GAIN, [REDACTED]

- ELLI SHEPARD, [REDACTED]



CECIL S. FARRAR, (no address)

EDWARD D. O'DEA,

LESLIE ROBINSON,

LOIS NEWTON THURBER,

LESTER FANEUF,

DANIEL W. STREETER,

RAYMOND CARLSON,

MRS. HARRY BEEBE,

M. B. ROVNER,

NORMAN BRUM,

CLAYTON MAXWELL,

GEORGE E. TOLES, (no address)

DR. ALBERT P. SY,

DR. BART A. WIGRO,

Mrs. FRANKLIN GURLEY,

MRS. MARIAN GUINN,

EDWARD C. SCHICK,

HOWARD W. KURTZ,

JACOB BRACH,

EDWARD F. BARRETT, JR.,

DR. IRA TREVETT,

MRS. FLORENCE L. CLARK,

R. H. LYDON,



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PERCIVAL G. BIXBY, [REDACTED]  
MRS. JOSEPH SHEPPERLY, [REDACTED]  
DR. LEWIS G. FUCHS, [REDACTED]  
L. A. GATES, [REDACTED]  
MRS. WALTER L. LAUTZ, [REDACTED]  
LEWIS P. GOULD, [REDACTED]  
MISS KAY VAN DENATER, [REDACTED]  
ADELBERT C. SPRAGUE, [REDACTED]  
SAMUEL WOLDFARB, [REDACTED]  
JOHN J. LANDERS, [REDACTED]  
CHARLES A. SCHEELER, [REDACTED]  
MISS HELEN F. ZIMMERMAN, [REDACTED]  
D. P. HUMSEY, [REDACTED]  
REV. LEONARD BUSCHMAN, [REDACTED]  
ROBERT M. KUEZ, [REDACTED]  
EUGENE HOGAN, [REDACTED]  
MR. AND MRS. NORMAN J. VESTER, [REDACTED]  
MRS. ALICE B. WAGNER, [REDACTED]  
MRS. SOPHIE MERCHENS, [REDACTED]  
MR. AND MRS. A. H. KRETCH, [REDACTED]  
ROBERT L. SCHEUKEMAN, [REDACTED]  
DR. ALLEN VALENTINE, [REDACTED]  
CAROL H. OWEN, [REDACTED]  
FRANK E. SPRING, [REDACTED]

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MRS. G. FRANCIS, (no address)

MISS MARGARET W. BOEHLE, [REDACTED]

LAWRENCE ZIMBARIS, [REDACTED]

JOHN W. BEKINGER, (no address)

MRS. KATHERINE DUGAN, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] individuals  
to sit upon the platform at a rally of the America First Committee at  
which Senator BURTON K. WHEELER of Montana was the principal speaker were  
[REDACTED]

JUSTIN C. MORGAN, [REDACTED]

JEROME C. KREINHEDER, [REDACTED]

PHILLIP V. BARZKOWSKI, [REDACTED]

FRANK J. CAFFERY, [REDACTED]

FRED M. HAMMER, [REDACTED]

HAROLD D. EHRLICH, [REDACTED]

FRANK A. SUZINA, [REDACTED]

CHARLES O. BURNET, JR., [REDACTED]

WALTER J. MAHONEY, [REDACTED]

JOHN R. PILLION, [REDACTED]

HON. STEPHEN J. BOGATOWIAK, [REDACTED]

MARY HOWE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the following bulletins of the America  
First Committee are being retained in the files of this case.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

BULLETIN NO. 14 dated January 21, 1941, entitled "Captain Edward Rickenbacher.

BULLETIN NO. 14 dated January 12, 1941, entitled "Poll on Standing of Representatives in Washington."

BULLETIN NO. 16 dated January 21, 1941, entitled "Cooperation with Other Air War Groups" and which reads as follows:

"The America First Committee has no connection with any other group in the field. It is a wholly independent organization.

"No chapter of the America First Committee may undertake whole sponsorship with any other organization for local public meetings, forums, lectures, advertising, publicity, mail, or telephone campaigns, etc., without first obtaining permission from national headquarters."

BULLETIN NO. 17 dated January 21, 1941, entitled "How to Direct Your Communications."

BULLETIN NO. 18 dated January 21, 1941, captioned "Telephone Campaigns."

BULLETIN NO. 19 dated January 21, 1941, entitled "Bulletin Binders."

BULLETIN NO. 27 dated January 25, 1941, entitled "Telephone Script."

BULLETIN NO. 28 dated January 25, 1941, captioned "Telegram to Congressmen and Senators."

BULLETIN NO. 99 dated March 5, 1941, captioned "One Woman's Experience."

BULLETIN NO. 107 dated March 6, 1941, entitled "Committees on Correspondence"

BULLETIN NO. 123 dated March 11, 1941, entitled "Friday Night Meetings."

BULLETIN NO. 133 dated March 18, 1941 entitled "Convoys" and reads as follows:

"The American Second Committee (committee to defend America by aiding the Allies) announced yesterday that it has adopted the slogan 'Deliver the Goods to Britain Now.' The committee calls for convoying immediately, if necessary.

"Convoying is the quickest way to get America into the war. Send postcards, letters, and telegrams to the President at the White House urging that no such plan be considered. Oppose this dangerous step which spells involvement."

BULLETIN NO. 142-A dated March 21, 1941, entitled "Principles of the America First Committee" and reads as follows:

"(1) Our first duty is to keep America out of foreign wars. Our entry would only destroy democracy, not save it. 'The Path to war is a false path of freedom.'

"(2) Not by acts of war abroad, but by preserving and extending democracy at home can we aid democracy and freedom in other lands.

"(3) In 1917, we sent our American ships into the war zones and this led us to war. In 1941, we must keep our naval convoys and merchant vessels on this side of the Atlantic.

"(4) We must build a defense for our own shores, so strong that no foreign power or combination of powers can invade our country by air, land, or sea.

"(5) Aid to Britain, which we have advocated since the formation of the America First Committee, is now in progress of fulfillment. Humanitarian aid is the duty of a strong, free country at peace. With proper safeguards for the distribution of supplies, we should feed and clothe the suffering and needy people of England and the occupied countries and so keep alive their hopes for the return of better days.

#### OBJECTIVE

"The very life blood of democracy is study and analysis, conferences and discussion of national issues by all citizens. Let us carry on!

#### MEMBERSHIP

"Membership in the America First Committee is open to all patriotic American citizens. We exclude from our roll Fascists, Nazis, Communists, and members of the Bund."

BULLETIN NO. 149 dated March 24, 1941, entitled "Our Boston Chapter Uses A New Petition."

BULLETIN NO. 151 dated March 24, 1941, captioned "Today's Book."

BULLETIN NO. 166 dated March 28, 1941, entitled "Membership and Finance Envelopes."

BULLETIN NO. 172 dated March 31, 1941, captioned "New Membership Cards."

BULLETIN NO. 175 dated April 2, 1941, captioned "Literature."

BULLETIN NO. 176 dated April 2, 1941, entitled "Rubber Stamp."

BULLETIN NO. 177 dated April 2, 1941, captioned "What We Must Do To Stop Convoys."

BULLETIN NO. 177A dated April 2, 1941, entitled "It Is Not Too Late."

BULLETIN NO. 178 dated April 2, 1941, captioned "Incidental Intelligence on Convoys."

BULLETIN NO. 230 entitled "America First Film Series."

BULLETIN NO. 253 dated May 14, 1941, captioned "America First Film Series."

BULLETIN NO. 364, dated May 19, 1941, entitled "Running Schedule of Speaking Dates" and is as follows:

May 20	Toledo	HON. PHILLIP LAFOLLETTE	"Macomber "V" High School
May 21	Akron	HON. PHILLIP LAFOLLETTE	Central High School
May 22	Columbus	HON. PHILLIP LAFOLLETTE	Memorial Hall
May 23	New York	COL. LINDBERGH <i>Charles A.</i>	
		SENATOR WHEELER	Madison Square Garden
May 24	* Atlanta	SENATOR TOBEY <i>Charles W.</i>	
May 24	Harrisburg	REP. JOHN VORTS	
May 24	Rochester	SENATOR D. WORTH CLARK	
May 25	South Bend	SENATOR NYE	
May 26	Scranton	REP. JOHN VORTS	
May 26	Ft. Wayne	SENATOR NYE	Shrine Temple
May 26	Knoxville	REV. JOHN CLAYTON MORRISON	
May 26	Bridgeport	REP. DENNIS SHORT	
May 26	Binghamton	SENATOR D. WORTH CLARK	
May 26	Springfield	REP. HAMILTON FISH	
May 26	Detroit	REP. MARTIN SWEENEY	Cass Technical School
May 28	Albany	SENATOR D. WORTH CLARK	
May 28	Indianapolis	SENATOR WHEELER	Cadle Tabernacle
May 29	Philadelphia	COL. LINDBERGH	Philadelphia Arena
June 2	Appleton, Wis.	SENATOR NYE	
June 3	* Omaha	REP. JAMES O'CONNOR	
June 4	* Fremont, Neb.	REP. JAMES O'CONNOR	
June 5	* Lincoln, Neb.	REP. JAMES O'CONNOR	
June 6	* Topeka, Kan.	REP. JAMES O'CONNOR	

\* -- cities tentative.

BULLETIN NO. 266 dated May 19, 1941, entitled "Person & Allen Column--May 19, 1941."

BULLETIN NO. 262 dated May 19, 1941, captioned "Advertisement: 'Will He Do It?'"

BULLETIN NO. 263 dated May 19, 1941, entitled "Radio Address by ALF M. LANDON" Radio address referred to in this bulletin is the address broadcast by ALF M. LANDON over the Columbia Network in Topeka 3:15 to 3:30 P.M., Central Standard Time May 18, 1941.

BULLETIN NO. 265 dated May 19, 1941, entitled "Let's Take a Poll on Convoys."

BULLETIN NO. 267 dated May 20, 1941, entitled "We Will Stay Out of War."

BULLETIN NO. 268 dated May 20, 1941, captioned "New York Meeting With Colonel Lindbergh."

BULLETIN NO. 269 dated May 20, 1941, entitled "School Is Out."

BULLETIN NO. 270 dated May 20, 1941, entitled "Memorial Day Seals."

BULLETIN NO. 271 dated May 20, 1941, captioned "New York Meeting With Colonel Lindbergh."

BULLETIN NO. 382 dated July 2, 1941, entitled "Just One Year Ago Today Col. FRANK KNOX Appeared Before the Senate Naval Affairs Committee for Confirmation of his Cabinet Appointment as Secretary of the Navy; Two Days Ago Col. KNOX repudiated his statements made in that testimony."

BULLETIN NO. 391 dated July 7, 1941, captioned "Minority Louder Than Majority, part of which is quoted as follows:

"The poll shows also that the 10 per cent minority who want to involve us in the war are vociferous, wealthy, and powerful; so powerful with the eastern press, radio, and communists, that the 90 per cent are fearful that they may be in the minority.

"What American mother will want her sons to fight and die for the red flag, communism and Russia. The idea of talking about bringing the four freedoms to Soviet Russia—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of opportunity—with American blood and treasury only shows that we should keep out of this rotten European mess."

BULLETIN NO. 395 dated July 8, 1941, entitled "Radio Bulletin."

BULLETIN NO. 396 dated July 8, 1941, captioned "Confidential Interviews With Senators and Representatives regarding an Advisory Referendum on War."

BULLETIN NO. 397 dated July 8, 1941, entitled "Another ALF! CONGRESS Says No!

BULLETIN NO. 400 dated July 9, 1941, entitled "Your Greatest Step Against War," pertinent parts of which are quoted as follows:

"General Wood addressing the nation Monday night over the Mutual Broadcasting System, said 'Seizure of these points (Iceland) can be considered as another step to edge us into the War, not a step for defense.'"

BULLETIN NO. 401 dated July 10, 1941, entitled "Gallup Poll Begins War Against War."

BULLETIN NO. 402 dated July 10, 1941, captioned "Cold Comfort."

BULLETIN NO. 532 dated August 28, 1941, entitled "Printed Postcards."

BULLETIN NO. 537 dated September 6, 1941, entitled "Radio Bulletin."

This office is also in possession of one photograph of a letterhead of the local chapter of the America First Committee.

[REDACTED] This letterhead contains the names of the temporary officers naming MILLARD C. DORNTGE as chairman and GILBERT J. PEDERSEN as secretary. It also lists the Buffalo Committee and the following names are set out as members of same: EDWARD F. BARRETT, JR., JOSEPH M. BOEHM, REV. LEONARD V. BUSHMAN, DR. PAUL CONROY, MILLARD C. DORNTGE, KENNETH BRUCE MACDONALD, GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, AUSTIN J. ROCHE, ELIZABETH OLAMSTEAD SMITH, DR. IRA TREVETT, and NEIL M. WILLARD. It also sets forth the names of the national committee but same are not being incorporated in this report because it is felt that it is already in possession of the Bureau. It further sets out the address of the temporary headquarters of the Buffalo chapter as 122 West Chippewa Street and Telephone No. Cleveland 2458. b2 b7

Two photographs of a membership card of the America First Committee, one showing a front view of the membership card and the other the reverse side. The front view is being set out as follows:

"AMERICA FIRST MEMBERSHIP CARD"

"I hereby enroll as a member of the America First Committee, in order to help keep our country out of foreign war. I am a patriotic American citizen. I am not affiliated in any way with any foreign power."

As revealed by the membership card, there were three types of members an individual could enroll as (1) a contributing member, (2) a sustaining member and (3) a supporting member. The reverse side of the membership card set forth the principles of the America First Committee and these are not being set out at this time inasmuch as they have already been set forth in this report.



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This office is also in possession of a photograph of America First membership certificate No. 1432, the face of which is similar to that of the membership card.

The Buffalo office is maintaining a photograph copy of a membership and contribution form of the America First Committee.

This office is also in possession of two photographs of the authority granted GILBERT J. PEDERSEN by the acting chairman and national director of the America First Committee to organize a local chapter and is set out as follows:

"Whereas GILBERT J. PEDERSEN has consulted with ROBERT E. WOOD, acting chairman, and R. DOUGLAS STUART, JR., national director of the America First Committee, and whereas the aforementioned persons have concluded that Mr. PEDERSEN would do an excellent job in the formation of a local chapter of the America First Committee, Mr. PEDERSEN is hereby directed to proceed with the formation of the above described local committee.

/s/ R. DOUGLAS STUART, JR."

One photograph of a list of the steering committee of the local chapter of the America First Committee as of December 31, 1940, is being retained in the files of this office and is set out as follows:

EDWARD F. BARRETT, JR., residence address [REDACTED]

JOSEPH M. BOEHM, residence address [REDACTED]

Chairman of the Buffalo Planning Board; [REDACTED] b7c

REVEREND LEONARD V. BUSHMAN, residence address [REDACTED]

DR. PAUL CONROY, residence address [REDACTED]

MILLARD C. DORNTGE, (acting chairman), residence address [REDACTED]

KENNETH BRUCE MACDONALD, residence address [REDACTED]

GILBERT J. PEDERSEN (acting secretary), residence address [REDACTED]

ELIZABETH HOLMSTEAD SMITH, residence address [REDACTED] b7c

DR. IRA TREVETT, residence address [REDACTED]

NEIL M. WILLARD, residence address [REDACTED]

AUSTIN J. ROCHE, residence address [REDACTED]

This office is also in possession of a photographic copy of the America First Committee manual, which is being set out in full as follows:

CHAPTER MANUAL

America First Committee  
141 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Ill.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

The America First Committee is a non-political, non-partisan organization of American citizens, who believe that the preservation of American liberties and the advancement of American democracy depend upon keeping out of the present conflict abroad.

The organization of the America First Committee is reaching out to every municipal ward and rural district in America. No section of the country is too small or too remote to establish a local unit that will work for the preservation and defense of our American democracy.

Every American citizen is invited to join the America First Committee and work with us. We exclude from our ranks those who have ulterior motives -- anything other than the welfare of our country. Those who are unwelcome include the Communists who really desire to destroy our Government; the Nazis and the members of the Bund, who put the interests of Germany above those of this country; those of the school of thought who call themselves or may be considered American Fascists; some ultra-pacifists who forgot the interest of their country in their desire for peace at any price.

### THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

The membership of the National Committee, under the Chairmanship of General Robert E. Wood of Chicago, is made up of men and women who are devoting their time, money and energy to the protection of what we believe to be the best interests of the United States.

The members are:

#### NATIONAL COMMITTEE

General Robert E. Wood, Acting Chairman. Merchant; Acting Quartermaster General U.S.A., 1918-19; Commander of the British Order of St. Michael & St. George; Knight of the French Legion of Honor.

R. Douglas Stuart, Jr., Director

J. Sanford Otis, Treasurer  
Banker

Chester Bowles  
Advertising executive, N.Y.

Alice Roosevelt Longworth  
Civic leader

Dr. Anton J. Carlson  
Head of Department of Physiology, University of Chicago,  
Lieut. Col. Sanitary Corps  
U.S.A. 1917

William R. Castle  
Former Under Secretary of State,  
former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

Mrs. Bennett Champ Clark  
of Missouri and Washington, D.C.

Irvin S. Cobb  
Author; Chevalier of the  
French Legion of Honor

Janet Ayer Fairbank  
Author, civic leader

John T. Flynn  
Author, economist

Bishop Wilbur E. Hammaker  
Methodist of Denver, Colorado

General Thomas S. Hammond  
Manufacturer

Jay O. Hornel  
Meatpacker

General Hugh S. Johnson  
Columnist, former NRA Administrator

Gley Judson  
Lawyer

Kathryn Lewis  
Labor Union Executive

Frank O. Lowden  
Former Governor of Illinois

Hanford MacNider  
Former National Commander of  
the American Legion, former  
Assistant Secretary of War,  
Former U.S. Minister to Canada

Thomas H. McCarter  
Industrialist, New Jersey

Ray McKaig  
Farm Leader, Idaho

Sterling Morton  
Industrialist

Amos R. E. Pinchot  
Lawyer

George M. Peak  
Manufacturer, foreign trade  
analyst

William H. Rognery  
Manufacturer, philanthropist

Edward L. Ryerson, Jr.  
Industrialist, civic leader

Louis J. Taber  
Master of National Grange

Mrs. Burton K. Wheeler  
of Montana and Washington, D.C.

Dr. George H. Whipple  
Nobel prize winner in medicine,  
1934

Major Alford J. Williams  
Aviation expert

### PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

The principles and objectives of the America First Committee are as follows:

1. The United States must build an impregnable defense for America. With such a defense no foreign power, or group of powers, can successfully attack us.
2. With proper safeguards for the distribution of supplies and the maintenance of our neutrality, Americans should, to the limit of their ability, give humanitarian aid to the suffering and needy people of England and the occupied countries.
3. The cash and carry provisions of the existing Neutrality Act are essential to American peace and security. Within the limits of that Act Americans may properly aid Great Britain. Aid to her beyond the limitations of the present Neutrality Act would weaken our defense at home, and might well involve us in conflict. We oppose any change in the law which would permit American vessels to enter the combat zone or which would permit the American navy to convoy merchant ships through that zone, as any such course would inevitably plunge this country into Europe's war.
4. Americans should and do cherish the ideals of democracy and abhor dictatorship, but the welfare of one hundred thirty million Americans and the preservation of democracy on this continent demand that the United States keep out of foreign wars.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to strengthen and encourage the considerable majority of American citizens, who whole-heartedly agree with these principles and objectives as stated.

The National Committee establishes and interprets the broad policies that govern the activities of all branches of the Committee organization, and furnishes an aggressive and vigorous leadership. It provides the background for a national campaign, which penetrates into every city and state in the union.

Through its efforts the Committee's point of view and its analysis of developments in the international situation as they relate to our country are constantly being presented to the public for action. This is accomplished through a succession of messages addressed to the American people through the media of metropolitan newspapers, the three nation-wide radio networks, as well as local stations.

In addition, an intensive campaign of publicity is conducted from Chicago, New York and Washington over the three national news wire services (Associated Press, United Press and International News Service).

The national Committee is also responsible for direct liaison with members of both houses of Congress through constant personal contact and discussion.

All these activities form the basis for intensive local efforts--carrying the message to the grass roots -- which is the most vital part of the entire campaign.

Therefore, one of the most important functions of the National Committee is to stimulate and supervise the formation of local chapters through which intensive coverage of every individual community can be secured.

While local chapters are largely self-directed, their credentials must be first secured from and their chapter approved by the National Committee. They must abide strictly by the interpretations of the Committee's policies as stated from time to time by National Headquarters.

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The work of the America First Committee is directed from the national headquarters office, 141 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. (Room 1822)

The National Headquarters stands ready at all times to guide and foster the activities of local groups so that their activity may reach maximum effectiveness in the shortest possible time. The National Headquarters is prepared to furnish literature and other desired materials at the lowest possible cost and to offer suggestions as to procedure whenever desired or necessary.

## CHAPTERS

All applications to form chapters of the America First Committee must be presented to National Headquarters in writing before authorization to organize your group can be considered.

It is the aim of the America First Committee to have a chapter in every city in America. This chapter will act as the central clearing house for National Headquarters activities in your city, coordinating the work and interpreting the policies of the National Committee.

The major objective of the chapter is to clarify a bewildered public opinion by placing unbiased facts before the people. In this way, we plan to arouse American citizens to forceful action.

### HOW TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR YOUR CITY CHAPTER

If you want to organize a chapter in your town, here's what you must do.

1. Send for material describing the aims and policies of the America First Committee. Read what our spokesmen have said on the subject. Thoroughly acquaint yourself with the purpose of the America First Committee. Be sure you thoroughly agree. Inasmuch as the responsibility for the local direction of our program will be centered in your Chapter, both in interpretation of National Committee policies and direction of your local program, all applications will be thoroughly investigated before approval can be granted by the National Committee. Be sure that you fill out the application form completely.

2. If you are ready to go to work, you'll need help. This is a big job. There is no room for dilettantes, publicity seekers or people with personal interests involved. There is room for real Americans who want to work hard, long hours to save an American Democracy that was not fabricated by dreamers, but built by unrelenting toil.

The most effective means for setting up a chapter is for a group of citizens, earnestly interested in our efforts, to hold a series of luncheons, at which the organization of a local chapter can be thoroughly



discussed. Inasmuch as these preliminary meetings are of a "thinking-out-loud, off the record" nature, it is better that they be conducted without publicity.

Remember time is important. Get busy today!

In succeeding luncheons each of the original group should bring three or four friends who may be interested in lending their support. Try to pick people who can swing particular groups behind them once they are acquainted with what we are doing.

Discuss your program frankly. Tell what you want to do and what you want each of them to do. Pass out the material we have sent to you; ask them to read it carefully and discuss it thoroughly at succeeding meetings.

Tell each person present what his specific job is. (You chose him for his ability to organize; to raise money; to develop membership; to organize a speakers' bureau; to handle publicity; to donate office space; etc. etc.)

Experience has indicated that it is best at the first of these luncheons to discuss the physical requirements of the Chapter. Succeeding meetings can be devoted to widening the basis of leadership within the community and continuing the discussion. Do not allow your luncheon to break up without setting a time and place for the following luncheon; summarize what has been accomplished at the current luncheon and state the agenda for the succeeding one. Keep the meeting in hand -- don't let it digress from the issues -- and the problem -- to get organized immediately.

You, as Chairman, should take the lead, shaping the discussion. Show the importance of doing this work -- why this stand has been taken.

You should try to get at least five leaders in your city to join with you when you fill out your application to organize a chapter. Choose your supporting committee with thought for their ability to set your operation in motion immediately, once your charter has been granted.

As quickly as you have ascertained who they are and have your application completed, mail it in immediately. Be sure first that you agree among yourselves on our principles and methods. You must subscribe completely to the policies and aims before you can undertake the work.

Your application will be presented to the National Committee immediately upon receipt of it at Chicago. First we must check the responsibility and background of your group, and your qualifications to carry on the work must be reviewed.

After the Committee has acted upon your application you will be notified immediately. Later you will be sent your America First Committee Chapter Charter, which records your authorization to establish your Chapter, and which must be displayed in your headquarters office at all times.

#### HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR CHAPTER

When authorization has been granted and you have received approval, call together the members of your Committee so that you may set up your organization and get going. This meeting is important.

It is difficult to set up a hard and fast pattern for developing your chapter functions. Conditions in different communities will vary; but we will give you the benefit from best experience to date in this direction. This suggested outline will serve as a guide.

##### 1. Elect a Chairman.

The Chapter Chairman will be the active head of your group, responsible to the National Headquarters for conduct of committee affairs in your city, and for the local interpretation of the Committee's policies. He will coordinate your local program with our National campaign. He should be a leader in the affairs of your city, regularly identified as an outstanding citizen of unquestioned patriotism and Americanism.

##### 2. Elect a Treasurer.

The treasurer shall be responsible for moneys collected by the Chapter from contributors to the program; shall see that receipts are given for all such contributions collected; shall see that an accounting is rendered for all expenditures made from donations for the work.

The operations of the chapter should be self-liquidating and no chapter shall incur expenses that will obligate the National Committee or National Headquarters. (Most chapters have found that this officer may be most effective if he is also an official of your local bank.)

3. Elect a Secretary.

The Secretary should keep minutes of your meetings; mail out notices and direct the use of your Chapter mailing lists for the distribution of material, buttons, pins, etc. He shall submit progress reports on Chapter program developments at least every two weeks to the Organization Department, National Headquarters.

4. Appoint a Publicity Chairman and Committee.

It is the duty of this Committee to keep your local newspapers informed of your Chapter growth, your meetings, forums, activities, etc. Ask them to give full publicity to this information. The Chapter publicity director will receive releases from the Publicity Department of the National Headquarters for local use. Be sure that pictures and the story of your organization, with picture and choice of officers, are told to the people in your community through your newspapers. As you grow you may wish to hire a publicity organization to help you.

5. Appoint a Speakers Bureau.

Set up a speakers bureau to develop representatives who can talk before prepared audiences (closed meetings of existing clubs in your local area before which our point of view may be presented) to discuss the America First program in forums, before church, labor, civic and school groups and study organizations; to talk on local radio programs; to address your public meetings which you will arrange under your own auspices.

6. Appoint a Membership Committee.

This committee should build up membership in your Chapter as rapidly as possible, securing mailing lists of all local groups who may have members sympathetic to our aims, who will work with us.

### OFFICE

After organizing your Committee you should immediately proceed to set up your Chapter headquarters office. Good store space in the downtown business section is most convenient. (More often than not, you can get it donated.) A street level office with good window space is best. Doors and windows should be suitably lettered indicating that this is the America First Committee Chapter headquarters in your city. For example:

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
Greater Boston Chapter.

It is here you will be rendering daily service to the man in the street. Pick a spot where you can reach him and he can find you easiest.

If your Committee cannot immediately underwrite this expense, ask one of your local banks or real estate offices friendly to our work if they can contribute space. Perhaps one of your members has real estate that is partially idle.

### OFFICE PROCEDURE AND PERSONNEL

You will need a telephone installed right away and your number listed. People will be wanting to reach you, and you will be conducting telephone campaigns.

You will need a secretary-stenographer -- one girl who can do typing and handle the telephone inquiries. It is important that she be an intelligent person. She should have a pleasing telephone personality and know how to greet and handle people. She should understand our aims so that she can be articulate in discussing the principles of the America First Committee. (At first the position could be filled by a secretary contributed by a member of your committee, or possibly a volunteer worker. If you do have volunteer help, remember this is a full time job -- and there is no time for personal interests. Experience has shown that volunteer help is uncertain, often not efficient, difficult to control.)

As you progress you will need a full time office manager. Perhaps some members of your committee will want to help direct the office, doing this important contact work themselves; but a full time manager or executive secretary should be present at all times during business hours.

His duties:

1. To direct the office activities for your chapter.

2. To handle mail. See that it is answered the same day it is received.
3. To order supplies of literature, buttons, pins, etc. from National Headquarters and handle their distribution to the public.
4. To order, receive and route radio transcriptions for local stations and to handle in like manner the movie film "Which Way, America?" available in 16mm size for meetings and in 35mm size for commercial use by your local neighborhood theatres.
5. To make up weekly progress reports for your chapter and to transmit them to the Organization Department at National Headquarters.
6. To receive and post weekly bulletins from National Director of Organization. To coordinate in like manner public releases, etc. from National Headquarters.
7. To organize the mechanics of mail, telephone and telegram campaigns to Washington.
8. To receive and be responsible for contributions from visitors to your headquarters. To give a receipt for these, account for them and turn them over to the treasurer of your chapter. (This person should be bonded as a protection to your chapter.) (Books of standard receipts are available at stationery stores.)
9. To discuss the aims of the chapter - its local program, etc., with visitors - handle inquiries for speakers, etc.

#### SOME GENERAL NOTES

Often it is difficult to get a sound projector for the film "Which Way, America?" for showings before your meetings. Experience has indicated that some offices with large sales forces, like the Ford Motor Company, the National Cash Register Company, etc have such projectors which they may loan or rent. Very often local school Boards have them. Sometimes they are permanent installations in school auditoriums which may be available for your meetings.

In rural areas the International Harvester Company, Caterpillar Tractor Company and others may be consulted. We have no arrangements or understanding with these companies, and local inquiries must be undertaken on your own initiative.

Some of the Peace groups have asked to be associated with our work locally. This is a question for you to decide. Many of these groups do not approve our strong stand for defense, others are more practical. We do not condone any joint sponsorship with other organizations for meetings, radio broadcasts, etc., without first securing approval from National Headquarters. The America First Committee is not connected with any other existing organization.

-----oOo-----

The America First Committee is a temporary emergency organization, not interested in permanent anti-war organization entity, nor dues paying memberships. It is supported entirely by your voluntary contributions.

-----oOo-----

Chapters are instructed not to engage in advertising, conduct large mass meetings, take part in radio forums, nor undertake any publicity work where the America First Committee will be on public record without first communicating that fact to the national headquarters and getting the written approval of the America First Committee.

-----oOo-----

Chapters are requested not to undertake any obligations or become involved in any contractual agreements that will in any way commit the American First Committee, its officers or its national headquarters. They should incorporate under the laws of their individual states as soon as they undertake any financial obligations which require more than out-of-pocket financing.

-----oOo-----

Chapters should understand that there is no obligation upon them to finance the activities of the National Committee, but if they are able to, they should do all in their power to make funds available to help take care of the radio, newspaper, and general public relations campaign, which can be more effective on a national basis.

-----oOo-----

(END)

One photograph of a release of the National Headquarters of the America First Committee, 1806 Board of Trade Building, Chicago, Illinois, dated December 10, 1940, was obtained and is as follows:

"Mr. R. DOUGLAS STUART, JR., today made the following comment on Adolph Hitler's speech: 'This is not the first time Hitler or his cohorts have screamed at the United States, and it probably will not be the last; but his threats are futile in the face of an America that is prepared and confident in its democratic institutions. If we become panicky and spend our strength and our democracy in military adventures abroad, we will be lost. We will be doing exactly what Hitler quite obviously wants us to do, but Hitler is optimistic. We will adjust our policy to our needs, not to his first-beating boasts. We will refuse to play his game of war. We will defeat Hitlerism by making America impregnable, by keeping democracy alive and dynamic and by keeping out of foreign war.'"

One photograph of a copy of a letter dated March 12, 1941, addressed to "You, Who Are Parents" and signed by MILLARD C. DORNTGE, chairman of the local chapter of the America First Committee. This letter was sent to parents of draftees, playing upon their sympathy and love of their sons who were drafted for military service and attempting to secure their membership in the America First Committee.

One Photographic copy of a letter dated April 16, 1941, addressed to "Mothers of America" and signed by MILLARD C. DORNTGE, chairman of the local chapter. This letter advises that Miss JEANNETTE HANKIN, Congresswoman from Montana, would speak under the auspices of the America First Committee on Saturday, April 19, at 1:45 P.M. in the Chinese Room of the Hotel Statler. Her Subject was to be "Keep Our Men Out Of Europe."

One photograph of two telegrams, one dated April 25, 1941, addressed to the America First Committee, 515 Madison Avenue, New York City, and signed by GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, Secretary of the Buffalo America First Committee, which reads as follows:

"Local papers featuring and editorializing AP dispatch that 'Crowds cheered when Lindbergh expressed belief that England is losing war.' Did that take place? Advise circumstances. Reply Western Union immediately, so that we may make statement at tonight's meeting."

The second telegram in answer to the previously mentioned one is dated April 25, 1941, addressed to GILBERT J. PEDERSEN from EDWIN A. WEBSTER, JR., Executive Secretary of the New York chapter and reads as follows:



"AP quote correct. Crowd greeted every pause by Col. Lindbergh with applause and cheers. It was applause for him, not necessarily for the particular statement made by him."

One photograph of a letter to the America First Committee, 1412 Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, signed by GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, Secretary, dated May 5, 1941, a pertinent part of which reads as follows:

"We had a very successful rally here Saturday night; better than 7500 filled the hall. Many were turned away outside. Better than 1,000 new members were signed up. The cash response was enheartening; we took in almost \$1,000."

Two photographs showing the office managers and office workers. This list is being set out as follows:

OFFICE MANAGERS

MRS. A. C. FISCHER

MRS. WALTERS

MISS GWEN JACOBS

OFFICE WORKERS

MRS. CHARLES T. RYAN  
MRS. C. W. ROTHBAUG  
MRS. W. C. MERNAN  
MRS. H. C. ROTH  
MRS. WALTERS  
MRS. E. BUSSENDORFER  
GERTRUDE HORNER  
BARONESS VON RANGELL  
Mrs. AUGUST MERCKENS, JR.  
MRS. A. C. FISCHER  
MISS GWEN JACOBS  
MRS. M. LITTLE  
Mrs. IRENE LEE  
MRS. H. GUELKE  
BARBARA COLE

MRS. QUINN  
MRS. BETTY REIMERS  
GERTRUDE KILLER

MISS ELIS & ELMOR MAYER

PA 3456  
UN 7664  
PA 6146  
PA 6146  
AM 8467  
GR 6392  
UN 0456  
GR 3812

GA 7754  
PA 5610

UN 9480  
UN 8629  
RI 4420 Ex. 5  
LI 0197)  
PA 2285  
TA 4424

One photographic copy of a letter dated June 20, 1941, addressed to the America First Committee, 1412 Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, from the secretary of the Buffalo chapter of the America First Committee, which reads as follows:

"In answer to yours of June 12, please be advised that we have approximately 4,000 members enrolled in our Buffalo chapter. Over 200 have made monthly pledges; over 2,000 others have contributed. The names and addresses of the leaders of our Buffalo chapter are:

MILLARD C. DORNTGE, chairman, 122 W. Chippewa Street.  
GILBERT J. PEDERSEN, Secretary, 1407 Genesee Building.  
EDWARD F. BARRETT, JR., chairman of speakers committee,  
425 Cresent  
MRS. WALTER L. LAUTZ, chairman of Women's Division,  
223 Linden Avenue."

One photograph of a letter to MILLARD C. DORNTGE, chairman of the America First Committee, from W. G. ANDREWS, a pertinent part of which reads as follows:

"For your information, there is serious question in my mind on whether Mr. FISH or any member of Congress has the right under law to use the franking privilege to distribute so many envelopes. He sent them to a large percentage of voters and certainly was paid for his printing. Technically speaking, it was an abuse of the franking privilege."

One photograph of a letter to MILLARD C. DORNTGE, chairman, from G. J. PEDERSEN, in which Mr. PEDERSEN resigns as secretary of the America First Committee.

One photograph of a letter dated October 17, 1941, to MILLARD C. DORNTGE from G. J. PEDERSEN confirming his resignation as secretary and requesting that his name be withdrawn from the membership of the steering committee.

One photograph of a letter dated December 19, 1941, addressed "My Dear Friends" and signed by MILLARD C. DORNTGE. This letter quotes the message which General WOOD conveyed to the America First Committee advising them that the national committee had decided to dissolve and quoting directly from this speech. In addition, DORNTGE expressed his thanks to the members of the local group for their efforts in behalf of the America First Committee.

This office is also in possession of photographs of the following pamphlets, which are being retained in instant file:

"One Year of America First" which deals with the progress of the America First Committee made during its first year of existence.

"Can Hitler Invade America" published by the America First Committee, 160 Pearl Street, Buffalo, New York, dealing with a discussion of the possibilities of invasion of the United States by Hitler.

"How to Write Your Congressman" distributed by the National Headquarters of the America First Committee.

"Uncle Sam, A Fellow-Traveler" distributed by the America First Committee, National Headquarters, Chicago, Illinois.

"Can Hitler Cripple America's Economy" expressing the opinions of Bernard Beruch, Raymond Moley, George N. Peek.

"Defend America First" distributed by the America First Committee, National Headquarters, Chicago, Illinois.

"This Bewildered Democracy" reflection on American foreign policy by Arthur J. May, Professor of history in the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.

"Must We Fight For Our Foreign Trade?" distributed by the America First Committee, National Headquarters, Chicago, Ill.

"America and the War" which is an address by Robert M. Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago, which was broadcast over the N.B.C. red network on January 23, 1941.

"Our Foreign Policy" which is a speech by General Robert E. Wood, acting chairman of the America First Committee, delivered before the Council on Foreign Relations on Friday, October 4, 1940.

See photograph of an address by the Honorable Herbert Hoover, which he delivered at New York on May 11, 1941, upon the immediate relation of the United States to this war.

This office is also in possession of the following photographs of the following releases of the America First Committee:

7 35  
100-315

Release of December 30, 1940, which includes the statement made by General ROBERT E. WOOD, Acting National Chairman, of the America First Committee, on the president's fire-side chat.

Release of January 8, 1941, from the America First Committee, Chicago, Illinois, of PHILLIP M. LAFOLLETTE, former governor of Wisconsin of comments on President Roosevelt's message to Congress over a nation-wide hookup.

Numerous photographs of newspaper clippings, documents, advertisements, letters, and handbills were secured from [REDACTED] but are not being set out at this time as they are not deemed of any particular interest. These items are being retained in the files of instant case. b2 b7D

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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FBI/DO

7-37

TITLE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE; INTERNAL SECURITY -G

S. A. [REDACTED]

b7c

DATE: 1/22/43

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ON 10-83-90

26989

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

January 25, 1943

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Horn:

Pursuant to our recent telephone conversation, I enclose  
herewith for photostating the contributors' lists and member-  
ship lists for the America First Committee which were located  
in the Hoover War Memorial Library, Palo Alto, California.  
An inventory of each group of lists is also enclosed.

*Samuel Klaus*  
SAMUEL KLAUS

Enclosures

*encls. destroyed, see  
for Justice Dept. 3-26-46  
with same serials  
note line*

*Blue memo to Mr. Ladd  
2/6/43*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

*diss*

*100-4712-461*

*b7c*

*B 26 1943*

NO. 84  
Service Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

VERNMEI

TO : MR. CARTWRIGHT *jc*

DATE: MARCH 26, 1946

FROM : MISS THOMPSON

SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
Bureau File # 100-4712-491

The attached bulky enclosure has been reviewed in the Filing Unit and its destruction is hereby suggested.

The reason on which the above recommendation is based is checked as follows:

- ☐ Duplicate copies
- ☐ Outdated
- ☒ Not indexed
- ☐ Closed status
- ☐ Non serialized
- ☐ Not translated
- ☐ Material available elsewhere
- ☐ Bureau library
- ☐ Other serial or serials in file
- ☐ Publications

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DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BJS/C

RECOMMENDATION

As this material is occupying valuable space in the Records Section, it is requested that this file be reviewed by Security Division for an expression as to its disposition.

It is recommended that the material be destroyed here at the Seat of Government.

*No objection to destruction of the bulky enclosure 3/27/46*  
*serial destroyed 3-28-46*  
*3/28/46*  
100-4712-491  
54 MAR 28 1946

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated At CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

File No. 100-1338

Report Made At	Date When Made	Period For	Report Made By
Dallas, Texas	2-18-43	Which Made	
		2-1,2,15-43	

TITLE

CHARACTER OF CASE

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Synopsis of Facts:

Small amount of activity in connection with America First Committee in Dallas in 1939. No activity since that date.

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DATE 02-23-90 BY SP8BJS/CAL

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted] dated 5-18-42, At Dallas, Texas.

DETAILS:

[redacted] stated he had contacted numerous people in Dallas, and he was confident there was only a small amount of activity in connection with America First Committee in Dallas during 1939, and no activity since that date.

[redacted] stated he had no record of any individual by the name of [redacted]

[redacted] stated that sometime during 1939, an announcement was made to the effect that the America First Committee would stage a rally at Fair Park Auditorium. However, this Rally was cancelled, and so far as he recalls, no other meeting was had, nor any further attempts made to call such a meeting in connection with the America First Committee in Dallas. He stated he had never heard of anyone by the name of [redacted]

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SAC

Do not write in these spaces

*[Signature]*  
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2 - Chicago  
2 - San Antonio  
4 - Dallas

100-4712-492

20 MAR 2 - 1943

INDEXED

AMG

1 (1442)

DALLAS # 100-1338

b7c  
b7d

[REDACTED]

According to Informant, [REDACTED] was in Dallas for only a few weeks during the summer of 1940. During this time, he did no work and was very interested in the promotion of the America First Committee. Informant stated he and his step-son were also interested in this organization at that time, but changed their opinion as soon as the war started. He stated his step-son enlisted shortly after Pearl Harbor.

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**Section 552**

**Section 552a**

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. 100-1395

REPORT MADE AT <b>DES MOINES, IOWA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/12/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/5-11/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b>

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BIS/OL

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Preliminary inquiry indicates America First Committee no longer active in Des Moines, Iowa. Former leaders were well-known Republicans, who although strong isolationists prior to the US entry into the War, stated to be of unquestioned loyalty to the US and entirely patriotic. Indication that individuals cooperating with foreign interests mailing propaganda to former members of America First Committee.

- P -

**REFERENCE:** Report of SA [REDACTED] Des Moines, Iowa, 5/22/42 **b7c**

**DETAILS:** AT DES MOINES, IOWA

[REDACTED] stated that he is well-acquainted with the men who had been leaders in organizing a branch of the America First Committee in Des Moines and throughout Iowa prior to the United States' entry into the war. [REDACTED] advised that in his opinion these leaders, who were first and foremost strong Republicans and secondly ardent isolationists, were sincere in their beliefs that the United States should not become involved in the present War. He stated, however, that all of these men were in his opinion entirely patriotic and loyal American citizens, and that since the United States entered the War, any activities which might in any way interfere with the War effort were immediately terminated.

[REDACTED] specifically mentioned as leaders of the Committee in Des Moines **ROBERT J. BARNISTER** and **AMYSON H. PARKER**, both prominent Des Moines attorneys. [REDACTED] advised that although these men had been very active in furthering the interests of the America First

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">100-1395-493</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">FEB 22 1943</div>	RECORDED & INDEXED <b>b7c</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT Bureau Chicago Des Moines		

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Committee, after LINDBERGH made the speech in Des Moines which received national publicity because of his criticism of the Administration, England and the Jews, they terminated their connections with the Committee.

[redacted] in order to illustrate his point that the leaders of the America First Committee were nevertheless of unquestioned patriotism, stated that HANFORD MacNIDER, who within the last year has gained recognition for his bravery and conduct in the War, is nevertheless one of the foremost leaders of the Committee in Iowa. Regarding the possibility that foreign interests or individuals cooperating with foreign interests might be taking advantage of the structure set up by the America First Committee to hinder the War effort, [redacted] stated that he had no information.

b2  
b7D  
[redacted] stated that he had received from time to time in the past four or five months, communications of a scurrilous nature from various organizations who flaunt their patriotism but nevertheless criticize the manner in which the War is being conducted and speak of the War as being caused by the "International Jewry." [redacted] stated that he had thrown these communications into the waste basket, but in the future if any were received he would submit them to the Des Moines Field Division. To the best of his recollections, [redacted] advised that the early communications had been received from Chicago, while the last one had been mailed to him from Cincinnati, Ohio. [redacted] also stated that he would inform the Des Moines Field Division if he obtained information regarding such communications being received by any men who had been active in the America First Committee. [redacted] advised that the mailing list of the America First Committee might be available to organizations cooperating with foreign interests so as to interfere with our War effort.

On February 15, 1943, [redacted] submitted to the Des Moines Field Division a bulletin mailed to him from Cincinnati on February 12, 1943, and signed "The Mothers Of Sons Forum, 111 W. St. Clair Street, Cincinnati, Ohio." This bulletin which severely criticized the Administration and England and blamed the War on the "foreign interests," has been mailed to the Bureau for whatever action might be deemed appropriate.

- P E N D I N G -

**- UNDEVELOPED LEADS -**

**THE DES MOINES FIELD DIVISION**

**AT DES MOINES, IOWA**

b2  
b7D

Will within the month of March, 1943, recontact [redacted] and ascertain whether he has any additional information regarding the possibility of foreign interests attempting to influence former members of the America First Committee so as to hinder the United States' War Effort.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
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ask 3-24-43

b7c

My name is not to be used in  
any way, for publication or —

This clipping from a Wall  
St. Journal was sent to me by a  
very dear friend whose loyalty to  
America cannot be questioned. But  
she is a most rabid Republican,  
very strongly anti New Deal, believes  
all this is true and should be  
read by all.

It sounds to me suspiciously  
like the lectures and literature of  
the former "America First" crowd.  
I dislike these extreme things, they  
are harmful at these times.

Is the writer of the article  
merely a Republican political  
opponent, or is he a  
German agent?

1 ENCL. 8  
(4)

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# THE GRAPES OF THE PRESIDENT'S WRATH

(An Editorial)

From The New Bedford (Mass.) Standard-Times by BASIL BREWER, Publisher

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-80 BY SP-10/STC

On Oct. 2, 1942, the President issued an executive order REDUCING salaries of executives and others in the United States to a maximum of \$25,000 after Federal taxes.

The order was issued under a bill which the President had demanded, and which Congress had passed, "TO PREVENT INFLATION."

Wages and salaries of all, except the "\$25,000 class," were "frozen"; that is, in general, could not be INCREASED over a September level.

NO OTHER SALARIES OR WAGES, except this "\$25,000 class," were REDUCED by the executive order.

In the same executive order, EMPLOYERS WERE FORBIDDEN TO REDUCE SALARIES OR WAGES of any receiving less than \$5,000 per year.

Month penalties were provided for violation of the order, and an attempt was made, by executive decree, TO DENY THE RIGHT OF APPEAL TO COURTS.

## MYSTERY OF THE ORDER

It is now clear this strange and unusual order HAD NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH INFLATION CONTROL.

It is known Congress included NO SUCH AUTHORITY in the Inflation Bill.

Senator Brown, the President's representative in the Senate, stated the bill contained NO SUCH AUTHORITY.

On four or more prior occasions, Senate and House had refused to grant the President similar power.

The order was not a revenue measure, for it WILL REDUCE the Federal Income—PERHAPS BY MILLIONS.

The order is UNJUST, DISCRIMINATORY, PROBABLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

WHY WAS IT ISSUED?

## THE PRESIDENT AND C. I. O.

For a year or more, before the President had issued the so-called "\$25,000 income limitation," this had been a plank of the C. I. O. platform.

The C. I. O. had borrowed the plank from the Communist Party, whose machinery Lewis had used in organizing the C. I. O.

In the same platform of the Communist Party of 1928 was a demand for the abolition of the U. S. Senate and the U. S. Supreme Court.

From its Communist associations, past and present, the C. I. O. has taken MUCH OF ITS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

It also had acquired, from Communist association, propaganda technique, political talent and membership discipline.

All of these had made the C. I. O. A POWERFUL ALLY, A DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS FOE, as the President and his advisors were quick to see.

It was no lightning, IN THE PRESIDENT'S EYES, that the C. I. O.'s demagoguery was A BIT SYNTHETIC AND TARTARUS.

The President himself had been known, ON NOTABLE OCCASIONS, to be opposed to taking the American Constitution "TOO LITERALLY."

Advocates of the C. I. O. "\$25,000 limitation plank" by the President, in the New Deal, was not only a violation of the Constitution, but also a violation of the President's oath.

Other things, THEIR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, was a factor in the President's decision.

Paul H. Douglas, who served on the President's Committee on the Administration of the Government, said:

"The President's Committee on the Administration of the Government, which was organized in 1941, was a body of men who were not only not in sympathy with the President's policy, but who were also not in sympathy with the President's personality."

About this time Attorney General Biddle said:

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The President's PRESTIGE, and SUPPORT from labor WAS AT STAKE.

But, more than these, here was the President's chance TO PUT THE SCREWS ON THOSE HE HATED MOST, the BIG BUSINESS LEADERS who had fought him and whom he had fought ALL THE NEW DEAL YEARS.

Only CONGRESS stood in the way: FIRST THE SCREWS must be PUT ON CONGRESS.

If he failed, he still had a card, which he had referred to in his inflation message.

He could take matters IN HIS OWN HANDS, in which case he said "when the war is won, the powers under which I act (those granted or not granted by Congress) will automatically revert to the people—TO WHOM THEY BELONG."

But he much preferred, he said, to put the matter through Congress the Constitutional way.

But, BEFORE THE BILL SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS, there must be PRESSURE from the public—on CONGRESS.

So the showmen of the Administration got together—and a good show was planned.

On Sept. 7, 1942, the Congress had heard from the President of impending disaster from inflation, OF WHICH THEY WELL KNEW.

But on the night of Sept. 7, THEY WERE STUNNED to hear CONGRESS WAS CHARGED with being the cause of the impending disaster.

Moreover, the President was taking no chances. CONGRESS WAS FLATLY TOLD THAT, while the President preferred the Constitutional process, IF THE CONGRESS DIDN'T ACT within a dated time, HE, THE PRESIDENT, WOULD ACT.

WITH DEVASTATING "LOGIC," the President said if the country was being INVADED, him to act, law or no law.

That, since American soldiers were fighting ON EVERY FOREIGN FRONT, it was equally important that he act WITH OR WITHOUT CONGRESS.

The stunned Congress, threatened with the President's "decree," had never before been done in history went to Congress didn't make the "decree" changes in the President's bill.

But there was one little change—ENOUGH.

In a bill to freeze wages and inflation" about which the President had said the following clause:

Section 4: "Provide: That in any case TO CORRECT GROSS INEQUITIES AND ALLEGED PROSECUTION OF THE WAR."

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In other words, the higher salaried executive, under the President's order, MAY BE COMPELLED TO DISCONTINUE HIS CHARITIES, DEFAULT ON HIS DEBTS AND FEDERAL TAXES, DEFAULT ON LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS, or become A SUPPLICANT AT THE DESK OF THE COMMISSIONER, pleading for additional salary to "prevent undue hardship."

This is putting the HARD IN hardship.

This is the COMPLETE CONTROL OF BIG BUSINESS in America which the New Deal HAS BEEN REACHING FOR FOR YEARS.

It controls by controlling the body and soul of the LEADING BUSINESS EXECUTIVES—by the "CAT AND MOUSE" OPERATION of the so-called "HARDSHIP CLAUSES" of the salary reduction order.

No wonder the President and the C. I. O. WANTED THIS SALARY REDUCTION ORDER.

No wonder he demanded it, THOUGH IT HAD NO RELATION TO INFLATION.

No wonder he wanted the order, THOUGH IT REDUCED FEDERAL INCOME TAX RECEIPTS.

No wonder he "would act, EVEN THOUGH CONGRESS DID NOT."

BUT THIS WAS NOT ALL, NOR EVEN THE WORST.

An attempt was made, AND STILL STANDS, TO DENY THE RIGHT OF APPEAL TO THE COURTS.

With the President's approval, the director issued the following order: "ANY DETERMINATION OF THE COMMISSIONER IS FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE TAX COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY COURT IN ANY CIVIL PROCEEDINGS."

This was modified, inconspicuously, in a provision which permits appeal to courts ON QUESTION OF LAW, BUT ON FINDING OF FACT the Commissioner's discretion and order STILL IS FINAL.

THE EXECUTIVES TRULY SO UNFAIRLY AND UNLAWFULLY ATTACKED BY THE PRESIDENT INCLUDE MANY ON WHOM THE COUNTRY MUST DEPEND TO PRODUCE THE WEAPONS TO WIN THIS TOTAL WAR.

VETERANS—OF CLASS WARFARE

A PROFOUND AND TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCE is that this war of survival was projected upon America on the heels of 10 YEARS OF CLASS WARFARE.

There can be no question of the President's sincerity or loyalty in the war effort, nor of that of his official family, and to some extent the President himself, ARE VETERANS OF CLASS WARFARE.

The methods and technique of class warfare DO NOT FIT—THE HATES AND PREJUDICES carried over DO NOT BELONG—in this TOTAL WAR AMERICA NOW FACES.

MORE THAN ALL ELSE COMBINED, this explains the confusion of the public mind in the war today and THE VULNERABILITY of the public mind to attack of the enemy, without and within.

Tainted with NAZISM and COMMUNISM, where it flowered, class warfare is based ON THE THESES that most people are fools or of low mentality.

The American people, TRAINED IN 10 YEARS OF POPULAR GOVERNMENT, are neither ignorant nor fools.

It is doubtful if the New Deal class warfare program EVER deeply impressed more than A SMALL MINORITY of the American people.

With sons and daughters on every front, and casualties mounting, the people are IN DEADLY EARNEST in the war.

The familiar class warfare appeal leaves them DISTURBED AND SHOCKED.

Misleading generally in the propaganda of the Administration is the thing which always has sustained America at war, A DEEPLY SPIRITUAL NOTE.

It is fair to say the American people, with sons dying on all fronts, ACHE MORE FOR FRANKNESS AND HONESTY from Washington than for anything—OR FOR ALL ELSE.

The real American people today at war, are not the AD-MINISTRATION ATTACKS ON GREATNESS, but the people who are deeply spiritual people LIKE LINCOLN.

HEALING FEELINGS such as WASHINGTON'S, and the people who are deeply spiritual people LIKE LINCOLN.

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At that time WE WERE AT WAR and the Government was representing ALL GROUPS without DISCRIMINATION or DISTINCTION. It could not properly be called "a labor government," for the A. F. of L. was not included. So-called the reality is in the President and the C. I. O. because, by the time of the C. I. O. National Convention last year, that ALMOST EVERY RESOLUTION ADOPTED, on political or war matters, recommended with LOYAL HOSANNAS TO OUR GREAT LEADER, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT."

**THE C. I. O. TRADE**  
BY MID-SUMMER the President was being catapulted into a situation of extreme gravity. It was not entirely NOT OF HIS OWN MAKING, as history shall record. But it was to test the WARMTH and SOLIDITY of his newly-extended friendship with the C. I. O. Because of the delay in needed freezing legislation, INFLATION WAS GETTING OUT OF HAND. Responsibility, of course, WAS DIVIDED between President and Congress.

Congress, needed by both conditions and bitter criticism of labor strikes from home, REFUSED FURTHER FARM PRICE FREEZING until the President would TAKE HIS HANDS OFF VETOING NEEDED LABOR AND WAGE LEGISLATION. The President, anxious as always about his labor political losses, WOULDN'T GIVE IN TO CONGRESS. Caught between runaway inflation threat, on the one hand, and the need for labor co-operation on wage freezing, plus the need for political support, particularly from the C. I. O., on the other—the President MADE A TYPICALLY ROOSEVELTIAN TRADE, or "meeting of the minds," as he would call it. Labor, WHICH MEANT THE C. I. O., the highly organized, efficiently organized group, which usually could "deliver" its membership, "WOULD CO-OPERATE" on wage freezing, IF THE PRESIDENT WOULD GIVE IT THE "SALARY LIMITATION," the "\$25,000 plank from the C. I. O. PLATFORM."

That this was the trade WAS SUBSTANTIALLY ADMITTED by Economic Director Byrnes himself, IN HIS 1942 HERALD-TRIBUNE FORUM speech, in which he says the "\$25,000 limitation" was necessary to SECURE LABOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF WAGE FREEZING. This seems to be CLEARLY CONFIRMED by a much overheard statement in the President's message to Congress of Sept. 7.

This was the speech in which the President demanded that price freezing legislation from Congress BY A GIVEN DATE, with the threat of taking things INTO HIS OWN HANDS. Only two points needed legislation, according to the President, "an adequate farm program, and a law permitting the fixing of price ceilings on farm products at parity prices." NUMBER THREE of the President's "SEVEN POINT" program—"to stabilize the remunerations received for individuals for their work," REQUIRED NO LEGISLATION, he said. Obviously AGREEMENT HAD THEN BEEN REACHED WITH "LABOR," the agreement which Byrnes said could not be made without "\$25,000 limitation" of salaries. OBVIOUSLY "LABOR" HERE MEANT ONLY THE C. I. O.

For the A. F. of L. was opposed to the "\$25,000 limitation," President Green having declared against it in a Senate hearing. **THE SCREWS ON CONGRESS** The agreement with labor made, there could be NO SLIP-UP ALLOWED. Co-operation of labor, the C. I. O., ON WAGE FREEZING was of vital importance.

**THE SENATE**  
Senator Brewster, then said, cryptically, "I will say to the SENATE OF THE TWO HOUSES WITH THE VIEW OF A SALARY LIMITATION" was not authorized. O. here may have been questioning WHETHER OR NOT the President could, UNDER THIS CLAUSE, make good his promise on the \$25,000 salary limitation. But the President was in no such quandary, he was determined to act, as he said, WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD THE AUTHORITY.

And the "regulations" may already have been prepared which WOULD ATTEMPT TO DEFY THE COURTS to anyone disposed to question THE LEGALITY of the President's order. Both Senate and House, in reference to this clause, acted with certain naivete, including Senator Vandenberg's inconclusive "amendment," POSSIBLY STILL SOMEWHAT SHELL-SHOCKED by the President's attack. Also, THE PURPOSES and intentions of both Senate and House being well known, AND THE PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE'S WORD GIVEN, both houses should have been able to DEPEND ON THAT WORD.

But in less than 24 hours after the bill was passed, the rules and regulations evidently DRAWN IN ADVANCE, the President issued the directive, including the "\$25,000 salary reduction."

**THE SCREWS ON THE EXECUTIVES**  
Having issued the salary order under the claim "to aid in the prosecution of the war, AND TO CORRECT GROSS INEQUITIES," the President had lost no time IN PUTTING THE SCREWS ON the business executives and other large salary recipients.

There is a principle of law, blider than America, which says the law must be clear—THAT THE ACCUSED MAY KNOW what he has done WHICH IS CHARGED TO BE UNLAWFUL. In the President's order, and in the Treasury regulations which followed, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE for an employer to know what salary HE MAY LEGALLY PAY, nor what the employee MAY LEGALLY RECEIVE, under the "\$25,000 salary reduction" rules.

The order restricts the salary, after Federal taxes and without any further credits, to \$25,000. But there is a clause in both the order and the Treasury regulations which "PERMIT" an employer to pay, and an employee to receive, additional amounts "TO PREVENT UNDUE HARDSHIP."

It is this "HARDSHIP" clause, and the regulations which follow, which really PUT THE SCREWS TO THE BUSINESS EXECUTIVES of the country, who are affected by the President's order.

Additional sums may be allowed the executive, under the regulations, for the following purposes:

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS "under certain circumstances," INSURANCE PREMIUMS, FIXED OBLIGATIONS AND FEDERAL TAXES OF PREVIOUS YEAR.

But in every case, the order says, the executive "must establish, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMMISSIONER (of internal revenue) that, after resorting TO OTHER INCOME FROM ALL SOURCES, (other than salary), he is UNABLE, without the disposing of assets at SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL LOSS, resulting in "undue hardship" TO MEET THE ABOVE OBLIGATIONS."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
Neither Basil Brewer, publisher and principal owner of The New Bedford, Mass., Standard-Times, nor any of his associates are affected by the so-called "\$25,000 salary reduction." This article is published, as a patriotic contribution, solely at the expense of The Standard-Times, without financial contribution from any outside source. Reproduction of this editorial is permitted with the only stipulation that, where it is republished for compensation, the names of persons or the group contributing must be published. Material in full page will be sent without charge on request by wire or mail to The Standard-Times, New Bedford, Mass.

**EDITORIALS BY BASIL BREWER PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INCLUDE:**  
Proposed Plan for (June 4, 1940)  
George Washington and the Third Term (Oct. 4, 1940)  
Mr. President (May 22, 1941)  
Left at War—Half Aback (July 1, 1941)  
Paroled to Lincolnburg (Oct. 1, 1941)  
A Subliminal and Subversive Tax Bill (Oct. 19, 1942)

OF THESE, Lincoln at Gettysburg or Washington at Valley Forge, WITH VICE-PRESIDENT WALLACE, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE, and SENATOR VANDENBERG, in brutal frankness, THE ABSENCE OF THE SPIRITUAL NOTE in the New Deal and class warfare propaganda IS NO COINCIDENCE. In the NAZI and COMMUNISTIC BOUL, FROM WHICH IT SPRUNG, there is no place for religion—IT IS IN THE WAY.

**'JUSTICE' BY JUSTICE BYRNES**

There is a line of thought in Washington that former Justice Byrnes was drafted from his new Supreme Court seat, with the idea he could get along with "handle Congress," better.

This may well be, for the new Economic Director, who has charge, among other things, of the "salary reduction" order, undoubtedly is personable and popular.

SUCH WOULD BE THE TYPE OF MAN SELECTED FOR SUCH A TASK.

But Byrnes' selection DOES NOT CHANGE THE CHARACTER of the sorry task the President handed him.

Nor does Byrnes' action ADD TO HIS LUSTER as a Justice.

As Supreme Court Justice, Byrnes added his voice and vote to the newer tendency of the court TO CONSTITUTE THE LAW "ACCORDING TO THE WAY CONGRESS INTENDED THE LAW TO BE CONSTRUED."

It was under this legal thesis that Byrnes voted WITH THE UNION AND AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT in the racketeering case of the U. S. Government against Local 907 of International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

This meant Justice Byrnes voted that Congress HAD NOT MEANT TO INCLUDE THE TEAMSTERS or other unions in the punishment for racketeering in interstate commerce.

But, in his first act as administrator, he approved the salary reduction scheme of the President. THOUGH HE KNEW BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE HAD NOT INTENDED TO APPROVE IT—had in fact many times REFUSED.

In the same administrative act, Byrnes declared NO DECISIONS ON THE SALARY REDUCTION ORDER could BE APPEALED TO ANY COURT, not even to the Tax Court.

Later this was amended to permit limited appeal to COURTS ON LAW ONLY, NOT ON THE FACTS.

Byrnes also, of course, vetoed the "CAT AND MOUSE" provision of the so-called "HARDSHIP CASES," which are so drawn that only THE STOUTEST EXECUTIVE HEART WOULD RESIST.

Seldom has an executive administrator, even under the present Administration, attempted to construe the provisions of a bill, CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF CONGRESS, as Byrnes did in the salary reduction regulations.

Seldom, if ever, has an administrator IN ANY ADMINISTRATION OR IN ANY DEMOCRACY attempted to prevent appeal of a citizen to the courts, BY ADDING, IN THE REGULATIONS, A FORBIDDING CLAUSE.

HOW BLENDER was the excess must be clear to the former Justice himself.

The excess is that Congress MUST HAVE INTENDED the administrator TO PERMIT APPEAL TO COURTS in the regulations, BECAUSE CONGRESS HAD NOT FORBIDDEN IT TO BE DONE.

**'EQUALITY OF SACRIFICE'**

In his defense of his salary reduction order, the President has said in promotion greater "EQUALITY OF SACRIFICE."

Of course, there is no such thing in war or peace, this merely is a clever propaganda phrase.

In war whoever looks for, or is appealed to, by "equality of sacrifice" is prepared NEITHER MENTALLY NOR MORALLY FOR ANY SACRIFICE.

The sacrifices of the American boys WHO DIED AND ARE DYING IN THE HELL HOLES OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, NEW GUINEA AND NORTH AFRICA, cannot be "EQUALIZED"—OR MITIGATED.

God only can equalize the sacrifices of war and only He in His own way.

THE SUREST REWARD for those who go, and those who shall return, IS TO RETAIN—NOT TO DESTROY—THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, which have made America great and for which we and they fight.

THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY REDUCTION ORDER VIOLATES EVERY FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

**A SACRIFICE FOR THE PRESIDENT**

The President has made great sacrifices in the war. He might well make for himself, and for the country at war, ONE MORE PERHAPS A VERY GREAT SACRIFICE—

FORGET HIS PREJUDICES AND HATES, of class warfare dogma—EXORCISE HIMSELF of his genius AS A CLASS WARFARE PROPAGANDIST—

He should also remove from important posts in the country's war effort THOSE VETERANS OF HIS CLASS WARFARE, who are falling down on the job and CONFUSING AND FRUSTRATING the American people.

The President has said we must arrange that the soldiers, who return from war, must have jobs.

That is important, and it must be done if humanly possible. BUT IT WOULD BE A SAD HOAX for the returned soldier, if THROUGH A DESTROYED OR DOCTORED DEMOCRACY, the soldier returned TO A WPA JOB—

If he returned just in time to ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF SURVEY THE SKELETON—OF HORATIO ALGER.

Only the United States of America has an Horatio Alger—FABLED BUT REAL SYMBOL—that from poverty through honest intelligence and hard work—American youth MAY "WRECK AND OPORTUNITY AND REWARD—LIMITED ONLY THEMSELVES."

March 27, 1943

100-4712-494

RECORDED

[REDACTED]

b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date with enclosure.

Your interest in bringing your enclosure, as well as your comments thereon to my attention is appreciated. You may be assured your communication and enclosure are being made a part of the official records of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-23-90 BY SP6 BDC

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 11  
★ MAR 27 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1943



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILL.**

FILE NO. **100-1259**

REPORT MADE AT <b>PITTSBURGH, PA.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/12/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/2/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BTS/c**

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

America First Committee no longer active in Pittsburgh. Activities related organizations are being followed and are being reported in separate cases.

-RUC-

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau letter dated October 16, 1942 entitled "We the People Inc." Internal Security - G. b7c

**DETAILS:**

It is noted in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 29, 1942 at Pittsburgh that the America First Committee organizations of Pittsburgh disbanded on December 8, 1941, directly following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Since that time there has been no evidence of activity of the America First Committee organization as such, although former members have established other organizations which apparently have purposes very similar to those of the America First Committee. One of the local organizations is "We the People, Inc." A separate case is being maintained on this organization in the Pittsburgh office and Pittsburgh is designated as the office of origin in this case.

In view of the above stated facts relative to the America First Committee this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

REFERRER UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>COPIES 5 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 2 - Pittsburgh</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>50 APR 8 1943 BH</b></p>	<p>RECEIVED <b>13 MAR 15 1943</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>67c</b></p>
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILL.**

FILE NO. **100-1481**

REPORT MADE AT <b>Chicago, Illinois</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2-15-43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1-6, 7, 2-27-43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>b7c</b>
TITLE <b>LINCOLN PARK CHAPTER, Inc. America First</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

10-23-90  
SP8 BT/GC

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DATE 4/29/85 BY 245238**

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The Lincoln Park Chapter of America First existed as a branch of the national organization until October 1941, at which time the national organization withdrew its charter because they regarded Lincoln Park Chapter to be "radical", and because Lincoln Park Chapter refused compliance with policy laid down by national organization. Subject group incorporated in Illinois through efforts of CARL SANDS, attorney, who acted as treasurer and vice president. Other officers included ALFRED W. BRIDEN, Chairman, HENRY LARSON, Director and A. E. WORSKOG, delegate sent to Washington, D.C. Membership estimated 10,000 persons, of which 65% of German descent. Three meetings held after Pearl Harbor, two of which were discussions of the possibility of keeping the chapter alive during war "to discuss the people". Third meeting held March 27, 1942 in conjunction with Midwest Monetary Federation, at which meeting JOSEPH E. McWILLIAMS was the principal speaker. The Lincoln Park Chapter associated and cooperated with MRS. ELIZABETH BILLING, "We, the Mothers Mobilize", Citizens Committee to Keep America Out of War, PATRICK HENRY Forum, and other similar groups in exchanging speakers and supporting meetings. No activities since March 27, 1942, although corporation not dissolved.

AGENCY **See A**  
REF. REC'D  
REF. FORM  
BY **J. J. [Signature]**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>100-4712-496</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 5 Chicago (1 file 100-600 1 file 14-25)	<div style="text-align: right;"> <b>16 MAR 17 1943</b>  <b>EX-37</b>  <b>b7c</b> </div>

**59 MAR 8 1943**

## REFERENCE

62C

**DETAILS:**

**AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

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The investigation conducted of the national America First group failed to reveal that subject organization returned its membership list, or discontinued holding meetings using the same name.

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☒ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. 100-508

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI, FLORIDA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/20/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/29, 30; 2/17/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Inquiry through informants throughout important population centers reflected subject organization no longer existent in State of Florida. **PAGE HUFTY**, National Director in charge of organization, advised since dissolution meeting of National Committee in his Chicago residence in December 1941 to his knowledge no attempts had been made to revamp organization for any purpose whatsoever.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BTS/LCL - RUC -

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** Miami, Florida, dated June 23, 1942.

**DETAILS:**

This report is the result of investigative efforts on the part of Special Agents **[REDACTED]** and Reporting Agent, **[REDACTED]**

A review of Miami file in instant case disclosed that inquiry **[REDACTED]** at Jacksonville, Florida by Special Agent **[REDACTED]** during months subsequent to June 1942 has failed to disclose any activity on the part of adherents to the **AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**.

**At Tallahassee, Florida**

Investigation conducted by Special Agent **[REDACTED]** was had with authorities and informants in and surrounding Tallahassee, Florida.

COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 2-Chicago 3-Miami 59 APR 1943	FILED 100-4712- <b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>4</b> MAR 25 1943 RECEIVED 35 APR 1943
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of October 10 and December 18, 1942, disclosed no known activity on the part of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE.

Special Agent [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and from [REDACTED] determined there never had been any known organization of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, although when that organization first came into existence some local individuals adhered to its belief and lent some support; however, investigation conducted by Agent [REDACTED] through inquiry [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], failed to disclose that the subject organization ever had engaged in any open activity in that area.

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

On November 19, 1942, [REDACTED] advised Special Agent [REDACTED] that she had no knowledge of a contemplated plan for the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE to become again active as an organization. [REDACTED] formerly was associated with the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE as a speaker in New York City.

A review of the Miami file in instant matter discloses that inquiry [REDACTED] at Key West, Florida, Orlando, Florida, Fort Myer and Sarasota, Florida failed to disclose any activity which could be attributed to the organization.

AT PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Under date of November 30, 1942, the writer contacted [REDACTED] at Palm Beach, and subsequent contacts with that informant as late as January 1943 failed to disclose any activity on the part of the subject committee known in that area of Florida. [REDACTED] advised that when the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE on the up-swing and coming to the national front in the winter season of 1942 at Palm Beach, a luncheon was given by [REDACTED] winter resident Denver, Colorado, in honor of GENERAL ROBERT E. WOOD, then a member of the National Committee. [REDACTED] advised he attended the luncheon where prominent persons of social and financial prominence, including such figures as [REDACTED] of New York and Palm Beach, [REDACTED] of Palm Beach and Brooklyn, [REDACTED] of Palm Beach and South Hampton, Long Island, New York; [REDACTED] of Palm Beach and Westbury, Long Island; [REDACTED] of Palm Beach and New York City, and numerous other persons of prominence also were in attendance. [REDACTED] advised that luncheon for all apparent purposes was given in an effort to raise money, and he stated he was convinced now that the primary reason for many persons of wealth and prominence adhering to the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE at that time was because their first concern was their pocketbooks, and they feared serious inroads on their respective financial status.

in the event the United States entered the European war. He also advised that at that time the question of political differences also caused numerous individuals to adhere to the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE, although he stated he was sure that subsequent to the incident of Pearl Harbor those individuals of Palm Beach mentioned as former adherents to subject committee immediately dropped their political and personal feelings and differences in favor of full support to the war effort.

Through [REDACTED] the writer was contacted by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised with the inception of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE he immediately lent his support [REDACTED]

and he stated so far as he was concerned, and he felt sure his own convictions were shared by most of the other persons who were members of the National Committee, the primary thought behind the organization was to keep the United States from being drawn into the European war. [REDACTED] stated that with the advent of Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into the present conflict, the week following December 7, 1941, the various members of the National Committee met [REDACTED] in Chicago, Illinois and there held a final dissolution meeting. [REDACTED] stated all of the records of the National Committee were turned over to the custody of GENERAL ROBERT E. WOOD, Chairman, and that so far as he knew, those records had been turned over to Stanford University and were deposited in the library at that place. [REDACTED] stated following the dissolution meeting in December 1941, so far as he had any information, there never had been any effort to bring the Committee back to life, and he said he was sure there was no effort made to revamp it or to use the organization structural set-up for any other purpose or organization.

Inasmuch as there are no further investigative leads presently outstanding in the Miami Field Division, this matter is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN



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## Section 552

**Section 552a**

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

100-5606

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8BTS/ccl

April 22, 1943

Director, F.B.I.

Re: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Newark, New Jersey, January 16, 1943, in the above-entitled case.

Attention is directed to the conversation between [redacted] and [redacted] which is set out in that report. As stated therein, [redacted] is designated "A" and [redacted] is designated "B" in the quoted conversation. However, these designations are erroneous and the correct situation is that [redacted] is that designated as "B", and [redacted] conversation is that designated "A".

It is respectfully requested that this correction be made in the copies of the report received at the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

S. K. McKee  
Special Agent in Charge

CC Chicago  
New York

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO**

FILE NO. **100-3249**

REPORT MADE AT <b>CHICAGO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5/18/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/29/42 to 5/18/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			<b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>
DATE <b>10-23-90</b> BY <b>SP8BJC/</b>			

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** No indication of any attempt to reorganize the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Los Angeles. The only known organizational interest of [REDACTED] is the Hollywood Women's Republican Club. [REDACTED] employed as a studio electrician by 20th Century Fox Studios, Culver City, California, where he has an excellent reputation. [REDACTED] is presently in the United States Army.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Los Angeles, dated May 27, 1942.  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Philadelphia, dated July 25, 1942.

**DETAILS:**

On April 7, 1943, [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that there has been no indication of any attempt to reorganize the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in the Los Angeles area.

Of the former leaders of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Los Angeles, [REDACTED] advised that JOHN WHEELER, son of Senator BURTON K. WHEELER, and [REDACTED] have not been active in any way. [REDACTED] stated that information has come to his attention that JOHN WHEELER no longer enjoys the full confidence of his father and should there be any attempt to reorganize, JOHN WHEELER would probably not be active.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] has not been active in the reorganization activities, although he is apparently the moving force behind the scenes in the organization.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: **A. D. [REDACTED]**  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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of INFORMED VOTERS OF AMERICA, INC., which organization maintains an office in the Oriatt Building, 617 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, California.

Although several former AMERICA FIRST members have joined the INFORMED VOTERS OF AMERICA, INC., there is no indication that any attempt is being made to perpetuate the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE through this organization.

\_\_\_\_\_ stated that of the former secondary leaders of the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Los Angeles, he has lost all track of \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ is reported to be presently working in some defense plant in the Los Angeles area and not active in any organizations. It has been reported to \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ has held meetings in his Glendale, California, home, but the nature of these meetings is not known to \_\_\_\_\_.

He said that \_\_\_\_\_ is now \_\_\_\_\_ HOLLYWOOD WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB and so far as he knows this is her only organizational activity. He stated that \_\_\_\_\_ former AMERICA FIRST member, is also a member of the HOLLYWOOD WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB and he said that at a meeting of the club on February 27, 1943, \_\_\_\_\_ and a group of women became involved in a discussion of the war effort and their dissatisfaction with the way the war was being conducted. So far as \_\_\_\_\_ knows, \_\_\_\_\_ has no other organizational connections.

On April 12, 1943, \_\_\_\_\_ American Legion, 17th District, advised that nothing had come to his attention to indicate any attempt to reorganize the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Los Angeles. He stated that JOHN WHEELER has not been active at all and that \_\_\_\_\_ although anti-British, had apparently confined himself to his political activities only. \_\_\_\_\_ said that \_\_\_\_\_ who is anti-ROOSEVELT and anti-British, is a loyal American of Irish descent, who, when war broke out, made a public declaration that he was through with the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE and all it stood for. \_\_\_\_\_ said that so far as he knew \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ have not been active in any way. He described \_\_\_\_\_ as anti-ROOSEVELT and active in the HOLLYWOOD WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB, but so far as he knows she has no other organizational interests.

\_\_\_\_\_ formerly resided at \_\_\_\_\_, but are presently residing at \_\_\_\_\_, West Los Angeles, California. \_\_\_\_\_ is employed as a studio

electrician by the Twentieth-Century Fox Studios, Culver City, California, is [redacted] years of age and registered with Local Draft Board 228, [redacted]

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20  
Inquiry at [redacted] by Special Agent [redacted] disclosed that [redacted] was born on [redacted] at San Francisco, California, attended public school [redacted] in the Bronx, New York, and high school at the [redacted] in New York City. He has had no military experience and lived in Mexico from [redacted] being employed by the Servicio Sumoco in Mexico City as service manager from May, 1930, to August, 1933. He has been employed by Twentieth-Century Fox Studios as a lamp operator from September, 1933, to the present time. One brother, [redacted] lives in Beverly Hills, California; one brother, [redacted] lives in New York City; one sister, [redacted], resides in Los Angeles, California, and another brother lives in Italy. He has one son, [redacted] who has been employed as a clerk by the Bank of America in Los Angeles.

[redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that he has known [redacted] well since 1935 and during this time [redacted] has been an excellent employee, making no remarks of any nature that could be considered un-American or pro-Axis. [redacted] could recall no mention ever being made by [redacted] concerning the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. He said that he considered [redacted] trustworthy in every way.

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[redacted] advised that [redacted] son, [redacted] was inducted into the United States armed forces on November 27, 1942, and is presently serving on active duty.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN



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**Section 552**

**Section 552a**

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-1395**

REPORT MADE AT <b>DES MOINES, IOWA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5-28-43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>5-26-43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** [REDACTED] advises no further activity of this committee in Iowa, and all members have climbed on the "bandwagon" of Brigadier General HANFORD McNIDER, now fighting in the South Pacific and formerly a leader of this committee in Iowa.

-RUC-

**REFERENCE:** Report of SA [REDACTED] Des Moines, Iowa, 2/19/43.

**DETAILS:** AT DES MOINES, IOWA

[REDACTED] advises that there has been no further activity of the America First Committee in Iowa, and all members have climbed on the "bandwagon" of Brigadier General HANFORD McNIDER, now fighting in the South Pacific and formerly a leader of this committee in Iowa.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-23-90 BY SP8 BJS/CL  
318,519**

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 28 1943

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COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Chicago 2 - Des Moines 394 <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">9.12.</div>	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">24 MAY 1943</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">RECORDED</div>

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